Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 6 | JANUARY 6, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of optimism for 2008?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Remodeling Stress

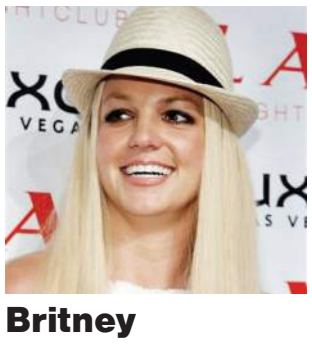
Even under the best of circumstances, remodeling inevitably turns into an emotional roller coaster.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Freak Storm

Howling winds, pelting rain and heavy snow pummeled California on Friday.

NATION...Page 17



Britney Meltdown

Britney Spears was derailed yet again in her struggle to get her life back on track.

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Demapan's suit vs Del Rosario settled. PAGE 3

Fed's help sought to upgrade 911 system. PAGE 5

Malite estate overseer kicked out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has kicked out Jesus C. Tudela as administrator of the Angel Malite estate for alleged mismanagement.

Govendo said Tudela failed to object to an inflated attorneys' fees that reached a total of $1.3 million, which was received by Tudela's lawyers, Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig.

Govendo agreed with the Malite heirs' argument that the administrator has voiced no objection to the fees sought by Yana and Atalig despite the absence of detailed billing statements, invoices, or time records.

"Such an approach to managing a $3.45 million estate is a blatant breach of the administrator's fiduciary duty," the judge pointed out.

He noted that Tudela also failed to close the Malite estate within a reasonable time and provide documentation and justification for lofty administrator fees.

See JUDGE on Page 4

SUBMARINE VISIT
Members of the Wellipal Cultural Dance Group perform a traditional Carolinian dance number as they welcome the first visit of the USS *Jefferson City* (SSN-759) at the Port of Saipan Saturday morning. The submarine, homeported in San Diego, California, carries a total number of 138 military personnel and is set to submerge early morning on Jan 10.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WITH ONLY ONE HEARING OFFICER AGAIN

Labor delays hearings on cases

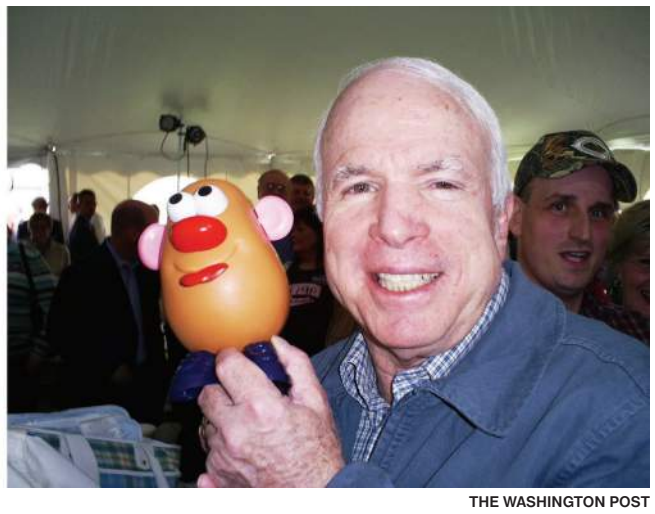
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has postponed the hearings of many cases as it has only one available administrative hearing officer.

Labor Administrative Hearing Office Administrator Rose T. Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that only Jerry Cody is left as administrative hearing officer because the contract of Herbert Soll was not renewed due to lack of funding.

With the shortage of staff, Ada-Hocog said they are rescheduling many of the cases currently on calendar.

See LABOR on Page 4



THE WASHINGTON POST

The Mr. Potato Head has proved to be nonpartisan, posing with Democratic presidential hopefuls (Barack Obama, left) as well as Republicans (John McCain) as they campaigned in Clinton, Iowa. Andy Green, the owner and photographer of the toy spud, says: "The candidates have been in Iowa forever. Why not have fun with the whole process?"

At Iowa caucuses, this guy is a hottie

By JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

CLINTON, Iowa—It's not at all unusual for folks in this town to meet at least one of the presidential candidates. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, Chris Dodd et al. have campaigned amid Clinton's 27,000 residents in recent months.

What's unusual—OK, a little odd—is for someone to have met almost all the candidates and taken photos of each one smiling with his Mr. Potato Head. That's right. Mr. Potato Head.

See WHY on Page 4

Around the CNMI

Groups check on progress of Laulau revegetation

By ANGELO VILLAGOMEZ
CORRESPONDENT

Ken Kramer, Marianas Resource Conversation & Development coordinator and author of the Laulau Project planting plan, led a small group of Beautify CNMI and MINA volunteers up to the Laulau revegetation project site this past week.

Marianas RC&D is coordinating a project that will help supplement the project with trees grown at local schools. Kramer, who is also coordinating the school project, said that they "needed to see what trees were doing well so that we know what trees the schools can grow for planting next year."

The volunteers braved thorns, sword grass, and sweltering heat as they hiked up the steep hill to check on the trees.

"The da'ok and the gliricidia seem to be both doing really well," said Kramer.

According to one of the MINA volunteers, other species growing well at the revegetation site are noni, ironwood, and two different acacia species. The volunteer said that some of the putting trees and pandanus trees looked very healthy, while others looked sick.

Kramer noted, "We didn't plant any ironwood, but it seems to be sprouting up on its own. It even grows in the saphrolite." Saphrolite is the volcanic base material that is highly acidic and nutrient poor. It is difficult for plants to become established on it.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MINA executive director Angelo Villagomez inspects a Hibiscus cutting planted in 2006.

Some of the species planted in 2006 are not doing well. Kramer said that "most of the banalo planted here in 2006 look like they've died and I haven't been able to find any of the kamachili trees."

Funded by a small CRM grant, the tree propagation project aims to teach local students how to grow trees to be used for revegetation projects. The trees will be grown at the students' schools. RC&D volunteers will teach students how to identify seeds, how to prepare a small nursery, and how to care for the trees once they sprout until they are ready to be planted.

Kramer says that they are still looking for schools to participate.

The number of trees each school can propagate will be limited by the space available at the school and by the amount of water the school can provide. Each tree will require about 4 square feet of space and five plants will require about 2 gallons of water each day. For example, to grow 25 trees would require a 10 x 10 foot area and 10 gallons of water per day.

Schools can grow as many trees as they can handle, but they must grow a minimum of 25 trees to participate. RC&D will make site visits to the schools to determine how many trees would be appropriate to grow at each location.

RC&D also leads field trips for students to visit the Laulau Watershed. Depending on the time of year, students visit the Kagman Education Island, the Laulau Revegetation project and/or the Laulau Bay dive site to learn about erosion and watershed science. The goal of the field trips are to teach the students that "What we do on the land can affect our marine environment."

Teachers interested in participating in the tree growing project or taking their students on a field trip can contact Kramer at 236-0893 or ken.kramer@pb.usda.gov. All grade levels at all public and private schools are invited to participate.

Later this summer, Beautify CNMI partners and government agencies will be looking to recruit volunteers for planting and maintenance of the area. For more information call the PTI-sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462.

Angelo Villagomez is the executive director of MINA.

The Fantasticks comes to Saipan

The longest-running musical in the world, and with good reason, *The Fantasticks* is on its way to the stage at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club, on Feb. 14, 15 and 16, 2008.

Friends of the Arts is producing this moving tale of young lovers who become disillusioned, only to discover a more mature, meaningful love. This classic story is punctuated by a wealth of catchy, memorable songs, many of which have become standards. *The Fantasticks* is an intimate musical show, which will engage Saipan audiences' imaginations while it showcases its strong ensemble cast.

Leo Goode, Jr. has been cast in the lead role of "El Gallo", on the heels of his world-class performance as Scrooge in the December 2007 Friends of the Arts production. Samuel Conner, who also played a key role in *Scrooge*, has taken on the part of "the boy", and Joan Liwanag, a member of Marianas High School's Thespian Society, will play "the girl." Harold Easton, Paul Dujua, Chuck Sayon, all veteran players, producers and directors of past FOA performances, along with energetic young talents, Tommy Baik, also a successful MHS Thespian actor, and Joseph Lloyd, both of whom played supporting roles in *Scrooge*, round out the cast, for a show that is sure to be a winner.

The Fantasticks is being directed by Dr. Susan Fishman and produced by Friends of the Arts.

The Fantasticks is being staged as dinner theater performances at Charlie's Cabaret on Feb. 14, with an intimate Valentine's Day menu and door prizes, then again on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16, which includes PIC's Magellan dinner buffet.

Make sure to mark your calendars for an evening of entertainment with a timeless fable of love that is nostalgic and universal, transcending cultural barriers. Mark your calendars and save the date. Tickets will be on sale soon. ***(FOA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bayani Association election, party today

The Bayani Association will hold its officers' election and inauguration today, Jan. 6, at the Filipino Workers Resources Center, Philippine Overseas Labor Office at the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building). The event, which will also serve as the association's New Year's Party, will be held from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

NMC campus closed on Jan. 8

Northern Marianas College students, and all staff and faculty will be participating in a training seminar on Jan. 8, 2008 as part of the college's efforts to meet standards of accreditation regarding assessment and program review.

To ensure maximum participation, NMC campus will be closed on Jan. 8, 2008 and will resume normal business on Jan. 9, 2008.

For urgent matters, contact NMC security personnel at 234-5498 ext. 1911 and they will contact the President's Office. We apologize for any inconvenience the campus closure may cause. ***(PR)***

Tinian Jr./Sr. High start of classes

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School will open for Spring 2008 semester Jan. 10, 2008. There will be no homeroom and warning bell is at 7:55am, tardy bell at 8am. Class schedules may be picked

See COMMUNITY on Page 4

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Demapan's suit vs Del Rosario settled

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed with finality the lawsuit filed by a former employee of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority against Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario over medical leave and retaliation issues.

Del Rosario

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson closed David S. Demapan's lawsuit after the parties reached a settlement.

"Any and all pending matters are dismissed as moot," said the judge in his order.

Demapan, through counsel G. Anthony Long, and defendants Del Rosario and CNMI government through deputy attorney general Gregory Baka, agreed to dismiss the case pursuant to their settlement agreement.

Each party stipulated to bear its own attorneys' fees and court costs.

Munson, however, will retain jurisdiction in the case to enforce the settlement agreement.

The terms of the agreement were not discussed in the documents that the parties filed in court.

Demapan, who is brother of former MPLA chair Ana Demapan-Castro, filed the lawsuit in October 2006. He demanded for damages, attorney's fees and court costs.

Long stated in the complaint that prior to Sept. 11, 2006, Demapan was on approved paid medical leave from DPL pursuant to the advice and diagnoses of a physician.

Long said that in a memorandum dated Sept. 11, 2006, Del Rosario cancelled payment of Demapan's salary while the employee was on medical leave.

The lawyer said that on that day Demapan had substantial medical leave time and the termination of his paid medical leave was unrelated to the sufficiency of his accrued paid medical leave.

Del Rosario's termination, cancellation or suspension of Demapan's paid medical leave violated the Family Medical Leave Act, Long asserted.

DPL is the successor agency to MPLA, which was abolished in February 2006.

When the lawsuit was filed, Del Rosario told Saipan Tribune there "is an ongoing investigation" being conducted by the Attorney General's Office, Office of Personnel Management, and the Office of the Public Auditor's Office regarding Demapan's medical leave.

"He can say anything he wants. The fact remains that there is a huge discrepancy in the sick leave issued by the doctor and it is now under investigation," Del Rosario said then when asked for comment about the lawsuit.

Islands' service members briefed on Tricare benefits

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
REPORTER

Tricare representative Paula Sheldon was on Saipan Friday to conduct a three-hour, one-day-only briefing on Tricare's benefits for reservists, retirees, survivors and their dependents.

According to Military Veterans Affairs Office director Ruth Coleman, this is the third year that the briefing was conducted on Saipan.

Tricare is a health care program serving active duty service members, retirees, their families, survivors and former spouses worldwide.

"It is considered to be a major component in the health care systems," Sheldon said, adding that a lot of very valuable information were given out in Friday's briefing.

She said Tricare brings together the health care resources of the uniformed services and supplements them with networks of civilian health care professionals, institutions, pharmacies and suppliers to provide access to high-quality health care services while maintaining the capability to support military operations.

The Tricare program has a wide range of programs that will fit the needs of a serviceman and his or her dependents.

"This program is especially helpful for those who may find it hard to locate a behavioral health care provider in the network," said Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of Tricare Management Activity.

Sheldon said people found out at the briefing that there are individuals who can file a claim for you.

The process to file a claim takes just as long as filing for any other claim, according to Coleman.

Coleman cited that there are an estimated 110 retirees, 20 survivors, 400 active duty, and between 120 to 130 reservists in the CNMI. "You multiply those numbers by two and you have their dependents who are also eligible."

Nearly 60 people signed up for the Tricare benefit briefing on Friday.

Coleman said there are many healthcare providers in the CNMI that are "very interested in taking on Tricare patients."

The two health care providers on the island that accept Tricare are the Commonwealth Health Center and the Saipan Health Clinic.

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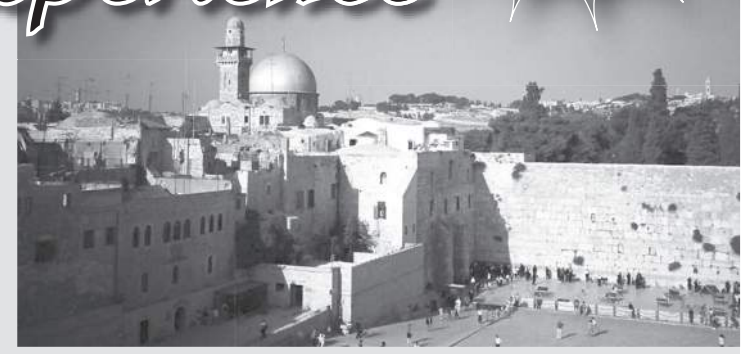

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NMC eyes learning project for low-income youths

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has expressed support for the efforts of the Northern Marianas College to secure a $5 million grant for its Gear Up project.

The Gear Up project aims to help youth of low-income families by involving them in educational and training activities. This is seen to help increase the number of youths from low-income families perform at CNMI standards in math and English language skills.

DCCA acting secretary Melvin Faisao expressed support for the project in a letter to NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

"DCCA is very pleased to learn that NMC is applying for a grant to fund the project," Faisao stated.

He said that through the project, more youths from low-income families will not only be able to complete their high school education, but also enroll and complete their college education at NMC.

Faisao said the department is pleased to be a partner with NMC and will assist with the project's implementation, specifically in the referral process for clients undergoing rehabilitation at the Kagman juvenile correctional and detention facility.

He added that the NMC project will help the youth become "decent and contributing members of the society" and "provide a window of opportunity to youths who have fallen into the crevices of society and lack the aid of assistance in mentoring and educational curriculum. NMC will be the catalyst of such opportunities to youth from low-income families."

Fernandez said they are pleased to gain the support of DCCA in NMC's efforts to launch the program in the CNMI.

She said the project will contribute "significantly to ensure that middle and high school students are amply prepared for college by providing a variety of academic preparation programs, scholarships, and other critical resources."

Fernandez said "many local students face tough obstacles as they graduate from high school, including limited financial resources, insufficient information about educational options, and a lack of academic preparation for college-level courses."

According to Fernandez, the project will contribute "significantly to ensure that middle and high school students are amply prepared for college by providing a variety of academic preparation programs, scholarships, and other critical resources."

TRICARE BRIEFING
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
TRICARE marketing representative Paula Shelton talks to reservists, retirees, survivors and family members during a briefing about the TRICARE program at the Professional Building at the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico Saturday morning.

'Why not have fun with the whole process?'

From Page 1

"The candidates have been in Iowa forever. Why not have fun with the whole process?" says Andy Green, a 20-year-old with a wide face and a perpetual smile, like he's been hiding a big joke he's just dying to tell. He's the kind of guy you'd imagine rushing up to Clinton, breathlessly saying: "You need to pose with Mr. Potato Head. You're the last Democrat to do this." She complied.

The story of the young man and his spudhead began in 2004, when Green inherited the toy from his dying grandfather. Grandpa Robert had kept the faux spud on his bedroom shelf, Green says, and treated it like nothing more than a decoration. Green, however, wanted to show the toy around. So wherever he went—and Green's traveled quite a bit—so went the spudhead. To the Statue of Liberty, Walt Disney World, the Marine Corps War Memorial.

His parents and younger sister have a three-word explanation for this.

"That's just Andy," says his mom, Jenny Green, a secretary at Clinton Community College.

Naturally, when the candidates started holding events near the University of Northern Iowa, where Green is a sophomore, he jumped on the opportunity. And naturally, since campaigning in the caucuses means retail politicking at its most ardent and aggressive—signing autographs, shaking every hand, posing for photos with a plastic spud—only two candidates declined Green's request: Sam Brownback and Joe Biden.

"I'm not saying his refusal to take a photo with Mr. Potato Head doomed his campaign," Green says of Brownback, who has withdrawn from the race. "But I'm sure it didn't help that I was bad-mouthing him to a lot of people." As for Biden, Green says he'll never forget the senator's words to him: "He said, `I don't take pictures with funny hats and funny toys.' Whatever."

There's a saying that Iowans won't caucus for candidates they haven't personally met. To hear Green talk about the candidates—and, political junkie that is he is, he speaks of them endlessly—is to listen to one young man's impressions of presidential hopefuls locked in the most competitive and open race in this state's caucus history.

"They've paid their dues. They've got the experience. I thought of my grandfather when I met them," he says of McCain and Dodd. Green's not entirely sure why Fred Thompson's running. "He just doesn't seem into it," he says. He thinks John Edwards is trying too hard. "Up there on the stage, where he was speaking, he was really good. Funny, too. But when you meet him one-on-one, he seems uncomfortable in his own skin," he says.

He reserves his most intense reactions for Obama and Clinton, both of whom he's seen face-to-face a few times.

Clinton, Green says, seemed "distant," "cold," "fake."

"Look at her photo with Mr. Potato Head. She's really smiling, but it looks like a really forced smile. It's only because I told her she's one of the last ones to have her photo taken."

Meanwhile, Obama, Green says, was "engaging," "open," "just like one of us."

"Look at his photo with Mr. Potato Head. He got into it. He's really having fun."

Green says that's not the only reason why he's caucusing for the Illinois senator—Obama's early opposition to the Iraq war, Green says, is "really commendable"—but his personality is a "big, big plus."

"When I met Hillary, I was scared. I was nervous about approaching her. I'd rather vote for Rudy Giuliani than vote for Hillary Clinton," Green says. "But when I approached Barack, I wasn't nervous. Not scared, either. I felt very comfortable with him."

Now that he's met all the presidential wannabes, he's going after the real deal. Former president Bill Clinton is scheduled to come to the city of Clinton, and Green will be there—Mr. Potato Head in hand.

Labor loses another hearing officer

From Page 1

Ada-Hocog notified their clients to verify the status of their case schedule with the front officer clerk at the Administrative Hearing Office.

She said the postponement of the hearings will affect about 20 to 30 Labor cases and denials.

Ada-Hocog, however, stated that they don't have any backlog of cases at present because their office addressed this problem in 2006 and 2007.

Ada-Hocog herself has not been spared the additional load. Aside from being the administrator and public information officer, Ada-Hocog has been acting as mediator of Labor cases for two weeks now.

"It's difficult. But it's something temporary until we get some more funding. We just need the patience of the community," she said.

Ada-Hocog also noted that they used to receive three to five Labor cased filed daily. This month, she said, no Labor case was filed so far.

In September 2007, only Barry Hirshbein was on duty as administrative hearing officer after Soll and Cody stopped working because of lack of funding.

As a result, Labor cases started to pile up as the administrative hearing office was working four months behind of the schedule.

After more than a month, Soll and Cody were re-hired.

Soll used to work as part-time administrative hearing officer, while Cody is full-time.

Judge cites Tudela's lack of objection to $1.3M attorneys' fees, others

From Page 1

"Due to these failures, it is apparent that the administrator is unsuitable to assume a position that requires good faith and good judgment," the judge said in his order.

Govendo denied Tudela any compensation for work and services performed under the title of "administrator."

Having committed a breach of trust, Tudela has depleted the Malite estate by a third of its cash assets and generated countless hours of attorney fees, not to mention delaying the proper distribution of the estate, the judge said.

"To award the administrator any fees would only further deprive the heirs of what is lawfully theirs," Govendo said.

The Malite heirs, through counsel Stephen Nutting, had asked the court to remove Tudela as administrator. Another heir, Angel Taman, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, joined in support of the motion.

The heirs underscored the need to remove Tudela because they have lost confidence in him to perform the required tasks and duties as administrator.

The heirs cited many reasons that, according to them, Tudela has violated in breach of his fiduciary duty.

In granting the motion, Govendo concluded that the administrator has failed to oversee and manage the estate.

Govendo said Tudela's failure to investigate the heirship of Juan Somol, or know anything about the circumstances that surround the sudden acknowledgment of Somol's heirship, "is a clear indication that the administrator is not fully vested in managing the Malite estate in accordance with his fiduciary duties."

Govendo said Tudela breached his fiduciary duty to the undisputed heirs when he waived any objection to the ex parte order approving the award of $1,138,500 in attorney fees—a third of the estate.

He said agreeing to a contingency fee agreement that is not allowed under probate law—where the administrator's attorneys were awarded one-third of the estate's assets, or $1.1 million—amounts to a failure to protect the estate from waste and depletion.

Govendo had already suspended Yana and Atalig from practicing law for their failure to return the $1.3 million in attorneys' fees awarded them.

COMMUNITY

From Page 2

up on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008 from 8am to 4:30pm at the front office.

Report cards may be picked up anytime during normal working hours. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The 25th year reunion of the Marianas High School's Class of '83 is just a few months away and we would like to remind those of you who have not purchased event tickets to do so now without delay. Our March 2008 deadline is fast approaching.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, 7pm, at Ms. Frances (Mildred) Cruz's residence in Buenas Noches Street, DanDan Area. Please come and join us as we finalize plans for our reunion.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

- Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665
- Viola Kaipan at 483-0214
- Ed Camacho at 483-5262
- Jane Tudela at 234-9571
- Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995
- Ester Teregeyo at 285-6284
- Ben Sablan at 287-1480
- Diego Songsong at 287-4300

Kagman High School reminders

Kagman High School students are reminded to pick up their class schedule at the cafeteria on Jan. 7 and 8, 2008, between 9am and 12pm. Jan. 7 is for all Juniors and Seniors, and Jan. 8 is for all Freshmen and Sophomores. To all parents, report card day is Jan. 11, 2008. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary January events

- Jan. 9, Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30pm, WSR Library
- Jan. 10, 3rd Quarter begins (everyone reports back to school)
- Jan. 10-11, NJHS Selection begins
- Jan. 12, Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)
- Jan. 14, Flag ceremony (sponsored by 5th grade students), 8am
- Jan. 16, PTSA Meeting, 6pm, WSR cafeteria
- Jan. 18, 2nd Quarter Awards Ceremony
- Jan. 19, Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)
- Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Day (no classes)
- Jan. 22, STUCO meeting, 2:30pm, Room D-5
- Jan. 23, Nov/Dec/Jan Diners Club (2nd and 3rd grade in charge), Pizza Night fundraising
- Jan. 26, NJHS Induction Ceremony (details TBA later)

Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

- Jan. 29, Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria
- Jan. 30, Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for it's patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

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grade 911 system

, the department these systems. commissioner said ing with the Federal Office and the U.S. Homeland Securi- purchase the system deral grants. the process now

system because it is very important. It is critical that we have it," she pointed out.

Warfield said her other goal for 2008 is to actually graduate another class of police cadets. She disclosed that the department is already approaching the end of the selection process of

"We have applicants. They've taken the English 100 placement test. They've been interviewed and now it's just the agility test," she said.

Warfield said there will be about 14 cadets who will start the actual training after a month and a half when all the paper-

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 6

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Reading Iowa

Don't get carried away by the results in Iowa. If there is one message we could emphasize from this most raucous of caucuses, that would be it. And although we acknowledge that it's unlikely to be heeded—after all, campaigns have spent tens of millions of dollars to woo voters here, and an army of 2,500 reporters descended on the state for the big event—it is a disservice to the democratic process to allot too much weight to the Iowa voting. After all, in both parties, caucus-goers were a small and unrepresentative sample of a small and unrepresentative state. Republican caucusgoers tend to be more socially conservative than their counterparts nationwide, Democrats more liberal. What sells to Iowa caucusgoers may not appeal to primary voters elsewhere—or to the independent voters who will account for a big slice of the electorate in November.

There are certainly advantages to a system in which a few small states get first crack at assessing the candidates. In a mass-media age, it's important to retain some role for retail politics in which voters get to take the measure of candidates in person. But the caucus process in particular has flaws, which are magnified by the absurdly front-loaded and compressed 2008 electoral calendar. The requirement that voters be present at a specified time and place disenfranchises too many people: service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, elderly voters wary of venturing outside in the icy cold, parents too burdened with family responsibilities to devote hours to the process on a school night, working people scheduled to be on the job. In the Democratic caucuses, the results are further distorted by convoluted rules that allocate greater weight to rural areas and eliminate candidates who fail to reach a 15 percent showing of support.

Iowa did furnish useful lessons, as it always does. It gave former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee a chance to make his case for the Republican nomination, though he began far behind former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney in fundraising. Among Democrats, the Iowa campaign provided useful testing and revealed differences in style, outlook and, at times, even substance. But as the campaign moves immediately to New Hampshire and quickly beyond, we hope the discussion on some issues also moves closer to usefulness. Both Romney and Huckabee sank to disappointing lows in their discussion of immigration. The apparent recovery of Arizona Sen. John McCain, R, from his political swoon of this summer offers some chance for a more enlightened discussion of this controversial topic as the campaign proceeds. Likewise, perhaps the Democratic debate will advance from its current crowd-pleasing rhetoric, whether about "ending" the war in Iraq or dumping the No Child Left Behind law, to grapple more seriously with some of the challenges that will face the next president.

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Libya's inconvenient truth

By MOHAMED ELJAHMI
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel-Rahman Shalqam is to meet with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Their sit-down at the State Department will come nearly seven months after President Bush declared himself a "dissident president" and promised active support for dissidents around the world. "I asked Secretary Rice," Bush said during a speech in Prague, "to send a directive to every U.S. ambassador in an un-free nation: Seek out and meet with activists for democracy. Seek out those who demand human rights."

Nothing of the sort happened. In fact, in its embrace of Tripoli, the Foreign Service has built a wall of silence around human rights concerns.

More than a year and a half ago the State Department removed Libya from its list of state sponsors of terrorism, confirming Libya's status change from pariah to example. "Libya is an important model to point to as we press for changes in policy by other countries," a department statement declared. But if Libya is a model, human rights advocacy and reform will be casualties.

My brother, Fathi Eljahmi, is Libya's most prominent democracy activist. Speaking at a conference in Tripoli in October 2002 that is usually a stage-managed affair, he surprised Libya's mercurial dictator, Moammar Gaddafi, by suggesting that legal guarantees of free speech and a constitution should accompany Gaddafi's rhetorical embrace of reform. State security agents took him directly to prison.

After nearly 17 months, Fathi won a respite, thanks to the intercession of Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del. And on March 12, 2004, President Bush cited Fathi's release as a barometer of change in Libya. "We stand with courageous reformers. Earlier today, the Libyan government released Fathi Eljahmi," Bush said. "It's an encouraging step toward reform in Libya. You probably have heard. Libya is beginning to change her attitude about a lot of things." Bush may have heard, but the Libyans had not. Two weeks later, Gaddafi rearrested Fathi. My brother has been in solitary confinement ever since.

Under Rice's stewardship, the State Department no longer even pretends to care. For 18 months, the Foreign Service officers manning the Libya desk in Washington have not returned my phone calls or e-mails. Recently, I saw a State Department official who told me, "We didn't communicate with you because we had very little to offer you." She was unaware that the Libyan security service had not permitted any members of our family to see Fathi since August 2006. The organization Physicians for Human Rights reports that his condition is dire.

The diplomat suggested that rather than seek the State Department's help, I should strike a deal with Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the Libyan leader's son and designated point man for engagement with the United States. How far U.S. moral clarity has fallen. Does the State Department believe that families of Cuban dissidents should beg for Fidel Castro's grace? Would the Reagan administration have suggested that Jews apologize to Moscow for seeking religious freedom? Perhaps East Berliners should have taken their complaints about the Berlin Wall to the East German zoning commission?

In December 2005, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi sent word through an associate that Fathi might be released if our family would guarantee his silence. None of us would agree to force our brother, husband or father to compromise his principles or to apologize for his outspokenness. "The state can afford to wait this thing out forever," the Libyan official warned. "Engagement is going ahead, and it will deepen. Those who disagree are noise in the background." From the State Department's perspective, it seems, he was right.

It is ironic and heartbreaking that the Bush administration says it cares for freedom, yet the State Department quietly suggests that courageous reformers should stage apologies to dictators. With Washington offering wholesale concessions to Tripoli, Gaddafi has little incentive to improve human rights. Absent pressure, Gaddafi understands that he has a free pass to rule Libya as a private fiefdom.

The Libyan regime no longer bothers to even rhetorically embrace reform. On Nov. 3, Libya's ambassador in Washington, Ali Aujali, made no apologies about Fathi's imprisonment. He told Taqrir Washington, an online Arabic news forum: "Anyone who breaks the law would be arrested. ... Unlike the West, our Islamic and Arabic traditions prohibit us from insulting our leaders." While Gaddafi describes himself to Western diplomats as a secular dike against an Islamist flood, in Libya he embraces Islamism and targets secular and liberal reformers.

Today, the State Department puts out a welcome mat for regime operatives but slams the door on dissidents and their families. Victims have become antagonists. This administration does not appear to understand that Gaddafi's success in silencing my brother wounds its credibility not only in Libya but throughout the region.

The writer, a Libyan American activist, lives in Massachusetts.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The great economic fall of China

By WALTER RUSSELL MEAD
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Mead, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of God and Gold: Britain, America and the Making of the Modern World.

The most important story to come out of Washington recently had nothing to do with the endless presidential campaign. And although the media largely ignored it, the story changes the world.

The story's unlikely source was the World Bank, which published updated statistics on the economic output of 146 countries. China's economy, said the bank, is smaller than it thought.

About 40 percent smaller.

China, it turns out, isn't a $10-trillion economy on the brink of catching up with the United States. It is a $6-trillion economy, less than half our size. For the foreseeable future, China will have far less money to spend on its military and will face much deeper social and economic problems at home than experts previously believed.

What happened to $4 trillion in Chinese gross domestic product?

Statistics. When economists calculate a country's gross domestic product, they add up the prices of the goods and services its economy produces and get a total—in dollars for the United States, euros for such countries as Germany and France and yuan for China. To compare countries' GDP, they typically convert each country's product into dollars.

The simplest way to do this is to use exchange rates. In 2006, the World Bank calculated that China produced 21 trillion yuan worth of goods and services. Using the market exchange rate of 7.8 yuan to the dollar, the bank pegged China's GDP at $2.7 trillion.

That number is too low. For one thing, like many countries, China artificially manipulates the value of its currency. For another, many goods in less developed economies such as China and Mexico are much cheaper than they are in countries such as the United States.

To take these factors into account, economists compare prices from one economy to another and compute an adjusted GDP figure based on "purchasing-power parity." The idea is that a country's GDP adjusted for purchasing-power parity provides a more realistic measure of relative economic strength and of living standards than the unadjusted GDP numbers.

Unfortunately, comparing hundreds and even thousands of prices in almost 150 economies is difficult to do. Concerned that its purchasing-power-parity numbers were out of whack, the World Bank went back to the drawing board and, with help from such countries as India and China, reviewed the data behind its GDP adjustments.

It learned that there is less difference between China's domestic prices and those in such countries as the United States than previously thought. So the new purchasing-power-parity adjustment is smaller than the old one—and $4 trillion in Chinese GDP melts into air.

The political consequences will be felt far and wide. To begin with, the U.S. will remain the world's largest economy well into the future. Given that, fears that China will challenge the U.S. for global political leadership seem overblown. Under the old figures, China was predicted to pass the United States as the world's largest economy in 2012. That isn't going to happen.

Also, the difference in U.S. and Chinese living standards is much larger than previously thought. Average income per Chinese is less than one-tenth the U.S. level. With its people this poor, China will have a hard time raising enough revenue for the military buildup needed to challenge the United States.

The balance of power in Asia looks more secure. Japan's economy was not affected by the World Bank revisions. China's economy has shrunk by 40 percent compared with Japan too. And although India's economy was downgraded by 40 percent, the United States, Japan and India will be more than capable of balancing China's military power in Asia for a long time to come.

But don't pop the champagne corks. It is bad news that billions of people are significantly poorer than we thought. China and India are not the only countries whose GDP has been revised downward. The World Bank figures show sub-Saharan Africa's economy to be 25 percent smaller. One consequence is that the ambitious campaign to reduce world poverty by 2015 through the United Nations Millennium Development Goals surely will fail. We have underestimated the size of the world's poverty problem, and we have overestimated our progress in attacking it. This is not good.

There is more bad news. U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs hoping to crack the Chinese and Indian markets must come to terms with a middle class that is significantly smaller than thought. Investors in overseas stocks should take note. Companies with growth plans tied to the Indian and Chinese markets could face disappointing results, and the high prices of many emerging-market stocks depend on buzz and psychology. Investor sentiment on China and India now might be significantly more vulnerable to future bad news.

China's political stability might be more fragile than thought. The country faces huge domestic challenges—an aging population lacking any form of social security, wholesale problems in the financial system that dwarf those revealed in the U.S. subprime loan mess and the breakdown of its health system. These problems are as big as ever, but China has fewer resources to meet them than we thought.

And there is the environment. With poor air quality, acute water shortages, massive pollution in major watersheds and many other environmental problems, China needs to make enormous investments in the environment to avoid major disasters. Globally, it will be much harder to get China—and India—to make any sacrifices to address problems such as global warming.

For Americans, the new numbers from the World Bank bring good news and bad. On the plus side, U.S. leadership in the global system seems more secure and more likely to endure through the next generation. On the other hand, the world we are called on to lead is poorer and more troubled than we anticipated.

Maybe the old Chinese curse says it best: We seem to be headed for interesting times.

A hunger for America

By MOISES NAIM
Special to The Washington Post

Moises Naim is editor in chief of Foreign Policy.

The world wants America back.

For the next several years, world politics will be reshaped by a strong yearning for American leadership. This trend will be as unexpected as it is inevitable: unexpected given the powerful anti-American sentiments around the globe, and inevitable given the vacuums that only the United States can fill.

This renewed international appetite for U.S. leadership will not merely result from the election of a new president, though having a new occupant in the White House will certainly help. Almost a decade of U.S. disengagement and distraction have allowed international and regional problems to swell. Often, the only nation that has the will and means to act effectively is the United States.

To be sure, anti-Americanism will never disappear. Nor will America's enemies go away. But strong anti-American currents will increasingly coexist with equally strong international demands for the United States to play a larger role in world affairs.

Of course, the America that the world wants back is not the one that preemptively invades potential enemies, bullies allies or disdains international law. The demand is for an America that rallies other nations prone to sitting on the fence while international crises are boiling out of control; for a superpower that comes up with innovative initiatives to tackle the great challenges of the day, such as climate change, nuclear proliferation and violent Islamist fundamentalism. The demand is for an America that enforces the rules that facilitate international commerce and works to stabilize an accident-prone global economy. Naturally, the world also wants a superpower willing to foot the bill with a largess that no other nation can match.

These are not just naive expectations. Foreign leaders know that, even in the best circumstances, the next U.S. president will not be able to deliver on all these things. They also understand that American leadership always comes at a price. Appearing too closely allied with the United States is a risky political position for elected politicians everywhere. Still, some have shown a surprising readiness to stand with America.

Consider what happened last March, when President Bush traveled to Latin America, a region he has largely ignored. To many, it seemed that the trip was bound to be inconsequential, as Bush had nothing concrete to offer. Yet all the Latin American presidents who were asked to host this lame-duck, empty-handed and politically radioactive guest agreed to do so; some even lobbied not to be left off his itinerary. What was in it for them? The hope of getting the superpower to do something for them. Leftist Brazilian President Luiz In cio Lula da Silva, for example, a personal friend and staunch supporter of Bush's nemesis Hugo Ch vez, wanted help with his country's ethanol industry.

In Turkey, much like in Brazil, the population is deeply critical of the United States. Yet, much like his Brazilian counterpart, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has openly courted the Bush administration. The Turkish prime minister knows that the United States is his country's best ally in the effort to get Turkey into the European Union.

Lula and Erdogan are just two in a long list of world leaders who understand that while the United States may sometimes use a heavy hand, the alternatives are much worse. Few want to see the world's stage led by autocratic regimes such as those in Russia or China. An ineffectual Europe does not offer much in the way of leadership. And short of these options, there are few possibilities besides living in an anarchic vacuum. Many foreign leaders will therefore be willing to pay the price that comes with American leadership. They ask only that the price not include subservience to the whims of a giant with more power than brains and whose legitimacy is undermined by regular displays of incompetence, recklessness and ignorance.

Polls in multiple countries have shown for years that the legitimacy and prestige of the United States has deteriorated. Yet WorldPublicOpinion.org reports that the same populations that don't want the United States to be the world's "leader" say that they don't want America to withdraw from world affairs. For example, 93 percent of respondents in South Korea, as well as 78 percent in France and 71 percent in Mexico said last year that the United States should play a role in solving international problems. Moreover, despite the overall negative perceptions of the United States, most people surveyed believe that bilateral relations between the United States and their country are improving. In no country surveyed does the population think that the nation's relations with the United States are getting worse.

Americans are likewise yearning for the United States to be more respected abroad. Sixty-nine percent of Americans say they believe it is best for the United States to participate in world affairs. And one of the Bush administration's most senior members recently called for a new direction in U.S. thinking about world affairs. "Success," he said, "will be less a matter of imposing one's will and more a function of shaping the behavior of friends, adversaries and, most importantly, the people in between. ... We need a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development." The American appealing for a drastic departure from the administration's overly militarized foreign policy? Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

The demand for a new brand of American global leadership is there. Increasingly, the supply to satisfy this demand will also be there.

Letter to the Editor

Congratulations!

The *Saipan Tribune* deserves congratulations for picking the right person and company to be the person of the year and small business person of the year, respectively. Tina Sablan is indeed the most deserving person to be picked as the Person of the Year. Ms. Lisa Sablan is the most deserving person to be picked as the Small Business Person of the Year. These two people so deserve these accolades, and I thank you for realizing and recognizing these most deserving persons. The Commonwealth should be very proud of them for their accomplishments and for displaying what being a true and genuine person is all about.

I know Tina and Lisa personally. I am very proud of them and am also very proud that they are my friends and also part of my extended family. Congratulations Tina and Lisa! Keep up the great work.

Thank you again, *Saipan Tribune* and staff for recognizing these two great people.

Gloria Hunter
San Antonio, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77

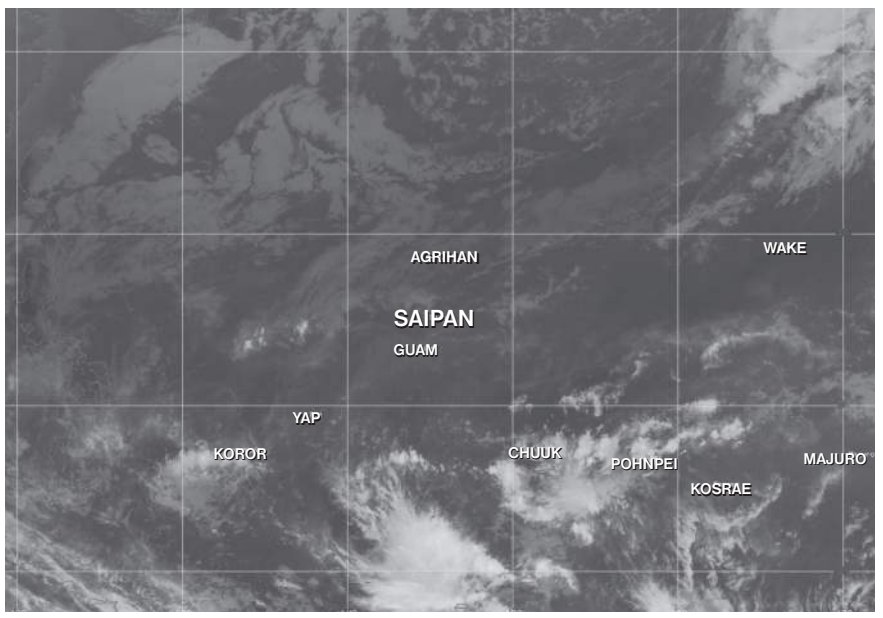
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲76	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼60
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲43	▼36
Los Angeles	Rain	▲57	▼43
Manila	Cloudy	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼59
Miami	Cloudy	▲77	▼67
New York	Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼36
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼36
Pusan	Sunny	▲51	▼29
Rome	Showers	▲54	▼46
Salem	Rain	▲42	▼32
San Francisco	Rain	▲51	▼40
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲42	▼24
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼37
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲56	▼41

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:22AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:49AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:40PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:15PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N162E and continues southwestward as a shearline from 23N157E to 18N150E through the Northern Marianas to 13N135E. Widespread cloudiness and patchy light rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches northwestward from EQ147E to south of Palau near 5N135E to 5N130E. Scattered showers are occurring along the trough near Palau between 4N and 8N from 130E to 135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with eastern end of the trough can be found between the equator and 3N from 143E to 149E. A surface trough of low pressure extends northeastward from 2N155E to 14N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this trough can be found between 2N and 8N from 150E to 160E and between 7N and 10N from 160E to 168E. This area covers portions of Chuuk and Pohnpei states. Trade-wind convergence is producing an area of low clouds east of an area from 6N180 to 19N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:00PM
Monday	6:45AM	6:01PM
Tuesday	6:45AM	6:02PM
Wednesday	6:45AM	6:02PM
Thursday	6:46AM	6:03PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:40AM	3:57PM
Monday	5:33AM	4:51PM
Tuesday	6:25AM	5:46PM
Wednesday	7:15AM	6:42PM
Thursday	8:00AM	7:38PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 25, 2007

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:15pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:20pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Thursday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu
Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

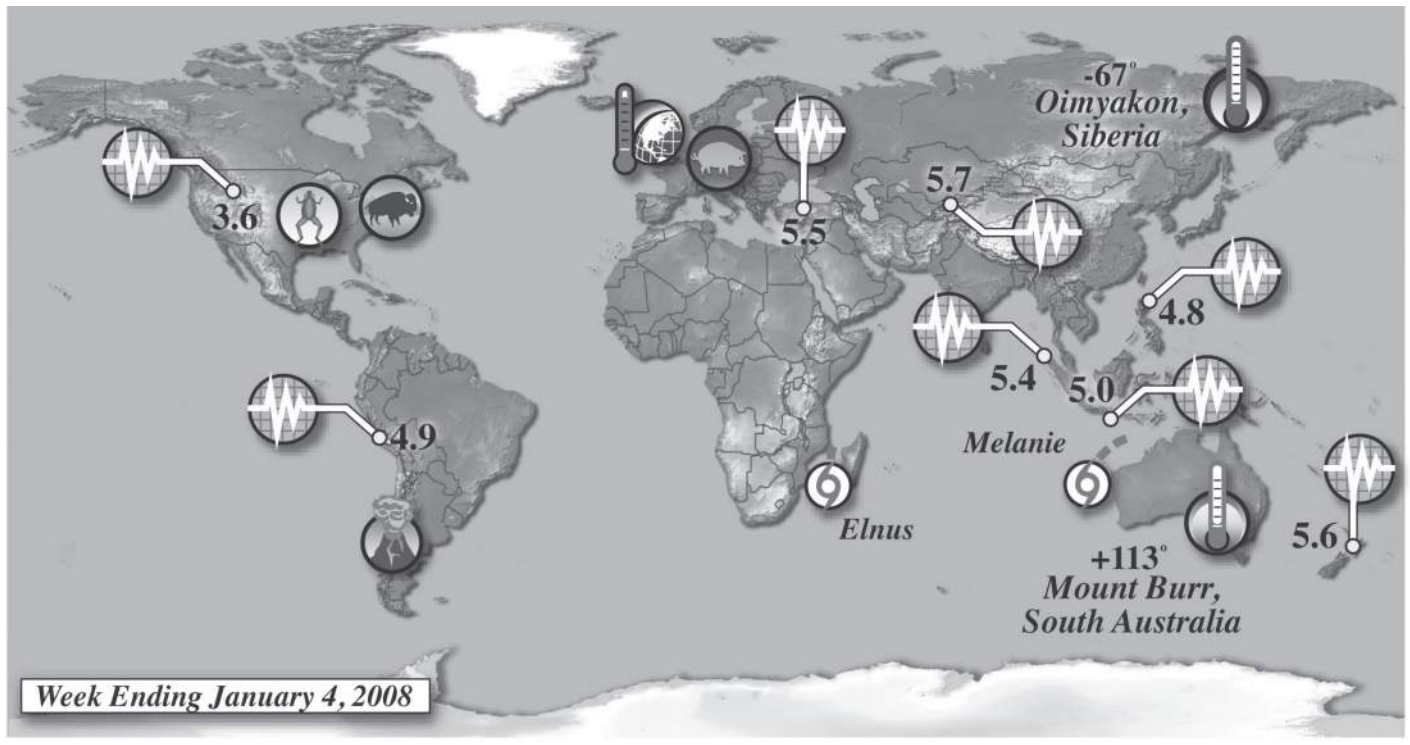
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon
English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Man vs. Wild

A new study suggests that the expansion of human development that began five centuries ago with European colonization has resulted in a sharp fall in the number of large mammals around the world. Scientists from Princeton University and the conservation group World Wildlife Fund examined records dating back to the year 1500 and found that at least 35 percent of mammals over 44 pounds in weight have seen their range cut by more than half. The species that suffered the greatest loss included tigers, leopards, lions, American bison, elk and wolves. "They have all been pushed out by exploding human settlement and hunting," wrote WWF's John Morrison in the Journal of Mammalogy. Only one-fifth of Earth's surface is today home to the same diversity of large mammals as five centuries ago. Those areas, which include Siberia, the Canadian Arctic and the Amazon basin, have largely escaped human encroachment.

Warming Migration Aid

The United Kingdom's Wildlife Trusts warned that animals such as bats, lizards and dormice will need human assistance in moving to new territory as global warming shifts their habitable ranges north and west. "Wildlife has done it all before, after the last ice age, but this time there are unexpected barriers: the cities, motorways and expanses of hostile countryside," said John Everitt of the Wildlife Trusts. He told the Press Association that his organization is trying to link up areas of woodland, shrub land and pasture to enable creatures like pipistrelle and barbastelle bats, sand lizards and hazel dormice to extend their habitat as the climate warms.

Andean Eruption

Southern Chile's Llaima volcano spewed fire and lava during an eruption that forced authorities to evacuate 150 tourists and residents. Officials later rescued an additional 54 people who had been stranded overnight after a local river swelled with runoff from melting glaciers on the volcano. The 10,253-foot mountain is located adjacent to the Argentine border, and lava was said to be flowing toward that neighboring country but not down the western slopes. Llaima is one of South America's most active volcanoes and has recorded 60 eruptions, with the most recent strong one lasting four days in 1994. The volcano is in the Araucania region of southern Chile, inside Conguillio National Park

Earthquakes

Late reports say a total of 945 buildings were heavily damaged by a 5.5 magnitude earthquake that struck the Turkish capital of Ankara and its surrounding communities on Dec. 27. No injuries were reported.

■ Several buildings were damaged in southern Kyrgyzstan by a 5.7 magnitude quake.

■ Earth movements were also felt in northern Sumatra, northern New Zealand, Java, the northern Philippines, southern Peru and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Tropical Cyclones

Madagascar's western coast was threatened with flash flooding as Cyclone Elnus passed through the Mozambique Channel.

■ Cyclone Melanie made a slow arc around Australia's northwestern coast, threatening only shipping lanes in the eastern Indian Ocean.

Frog Plague

A group of scientists warned that the largest mass extinction since the end of the dinosaur period is sweeping through the world's populations of frogs, newts, toads, salamanders and caecilians. The chytrid fungus has caused mass deaths in six countries, including Britain, where its effects are the subject of an urgent research project. The disease has so far proved unstoppable in the wild and can kill 80 percent of native amphibians within months once it has taken hold. Some fear the plague has been made worse by the effects of global warming. "Widespread extinction of amphibians would be catastrophic," said Jeffrey P. Bonner, chairman of Amphibian Ark and president and CEO of the St. Louis Zoo. He is leading an ambitious rescue plan to move the most vulnerable species into protected areas in zoos, aquariums and other institutions around the world to guarantee their survival.

Swine Road Hazard

A dozen wild boars that rushed across a busy German highway caused several accidents and forced authorities to close part of the roadway for an hour. The sounder of swine darted across the stretch of motorway at Brunswick, where drivers were forced to veer and brake in an attempt to avoid striking them. Three crashes resulted, but none of the motorists was injured, according to police. Three of the boars sustained injuries so severe that forest rangers had to put them down. The rest evaded attempts to catch them after they fled into a nearby field.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man, 85, clocked at 100 mph in snow, ice

TORONTO (AP)—An 85-year-old motorist lost his license and his Oldsmobile for a week and likely faces a hefty fine after becoming the oldest person snagged to date by a new Ontario law aimed at cracking down on street racers, even though he was just speeding. The man, whose name was not released, was driving on a highway north of Toronto Wednesday when he was allegedly clocked doing 100 mph, 40 mph over the posted speed limit. "He said he was going to the bank and shopping," said Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Cam Woolley, who noted snow and ice made road conditions treacherous at the time.

Speeder hides by burrowing into ground

SEATTLE (AP)—A man who was stopped for speeding nearly evaded state troopers by burrowing into soft ground along Highway 169 and covering himself with dirt and leaves. Trooper Jeff Merrill said the man, 20, hid for nearly an hour Wednesday and sent a text message to his girlfriend to pick him up. Officers caught him when he scrambled from his hole. The man was jailed in Kent. He had outstanding arrest warrants for failing to appear in court on charges of marijuana possession, harassment and drunken driving.

Police: Man took $20 in kid's piggy bank

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—A man has been charged with sneaking into a toddler's bedroom and stealing $20 from a piggy bank while the 2-year-old girl slept. Authorities say DNA evidence linked Ryan A. Mueller, 30, of Sheboygan Falls to the crime that occurred Aug. 10 in Wilson. Authorities say the girl's mother was in another room with another child when she saw a light turn on in her 2-year-old daughter's room. She walked into the girl's bedroom and saw a man shaking the piggy bank as the girl slept. The man fled before police arrived, stealing the money but leaving the piggy bank. Authorities say blood was found on a window blind where the burglar had forced his way into the home. Mueller was charged Thursday with felony burglary, which carries a penalty of up to 9 1/2 years in prison. His bond was set at $10,000, and a preliminary hearing was set for next Wednesday.

Good Housekeeping

Rolling with the remodeling

By DINA ELBOGHDADY
THE WASHINGTON POST

There's always a snag.

The cabinet shows up in the wrong size. The plumber is delayed at another job. The inspector fails to appear on the appointed day.

Even under the best of circumstances, remodeling inevitably turns into an emotional roller coaster with so many highs and lows that it can take weeks for homeowners to recover mentally from major construction, building experts said.

"Sometimes, it's not until two or three months later, when the homeowner is sitting in their new sunlit room with a breeze blowing through, that they finally say, 'I'm glad I did this,' " said David Lupberger, a building consultant and author of "Managing the Emotional Homeowner," a book aimed at contractors. "It takes time for the memory to fade."

Putting finances aside, the angst of remodeling typically is rooted in not knowing what to expect next. As some builders readily admit, contractors are not by nature a communicative bunch. They're trained to work with their hands, not hold hands. That helps explain why many fail to brace their clients for the ride ahead, Lupberger said.

That ride goes something like this: Homeowner decides to build. Excitement soars. Budget and wish list don't mesh. Excitement wanes. Construction begins; frame takes shape. Excitement hits high.

From then until the project is done is usually the longest downhill run. That's when the plumbers, electricians and other contractors do their thing, said Tim Burch Jr., president of Burch Builders Group in Warrenton, Va. "The client can't put their finger on the pulse of what's happening. To them, it feels like they're looking at the same structure without seeing change."

The disruption of time and space can take a toll on a homeowner's psyche, said Clare Cooper Marcus, author of the recently reissued book "House as a Mirror of Self." For her book, Marcus asked people to carry on a dialogue with their homes, asking them to alternate roles and pretend to be the home talking back. The exercise often elicited tears and gasps.

"It may sound a bit hokey and very California, but it was extraordinarily revealing," said Marcus, professor emerita in the architecture department of the University of California at Berkeley. "At home, we are surrounded by things that represent our values—the mementos of travel, family and special events. It is a powerful place because it is our psyche writ large."

So it's no wonder that messing with the setup can be a tortured experience, giving rise to tension between homeowners and their contractors—and among the homeowners themselves, she said.

"He wants to remodel the kitchen this way, and she wants to do it that way, and suddenly they realize that the differences in style or the willingness to spend money represent underlying differences between them that they had been papering over," Marcus said.

Matt Frumin said he and his wife, Lena, kept conflicts at a minimum through "division of labor" when they started remodeling their Washington home nearly two years ago. "I paid attention mostly to the structural things, and she made all the aesthetic decisions because her taste is far better than mine anyway," Frumin said.

The couple hired an architect (who was also a neighbor and friend) to design additions to the front and back of the house, a new kitchen, and changes to the flow of the house that required knocking down walls. The Frumins then decided on a contracting team that came well recommended by friends and was, in his words, "a pleasure to have around" even though the project moved in fits and starts.

"We met with a handful of contractors and took bids," said Frumin, a lawyer. The lowest bidder won the job, but Frumin said the decision was based on more than price. "We just liked and felt very comfortable with (the contractor). We had a good rapport from the start. ... It grew into more than a `not bad' relationship. It grew into a great relationship."

Finding the right personality fit is just as important as finding the right price, if not more so, said Bob Benedict, president of Northwood Construction in Sterling, Va. "A lot of people think price is the overall champion," Benedict said. "But if the contractor or the customer proves to be difficult, you'd pay almost any price to get out of the relationship."

When they meet the contractor, he said, homeowners should ask themselves: Is the contractor giving me ample time to speak? Is the person listening to me and taking my questions seriously? Would I feel comfortable approaching this person if things go wrong? If communication is stilted from the start, chances are it won't get better, he said.

Ask the contractor to introduce you to the person who will be supervising the project, and ask if that person will be on site full time, Burch said.

"If there's a really analytical client who wants to talk about every technical aspect of the project, there are some project managers who are good for that and others who are not," Burch said. "We've switched out project managers in these kinds of situations before."

Given all the moving parts, it's important for owners to insist on putting as much as possible in writing from the start, said Lupberger, who also works with ServiceMagic, an online contractor referral company based in Golden, Colo.

For instance, be specific about what finishes and trims will be used. Push the contractor to provide a selection sheet and make the choices as far in advance as possible to avoid back orders later on. That helps alleviate one of the most common consumer gripes about remodeling jobs: busted deadlines.

"Some contractors say, 'Don't worry about it; we'll make the selections later,' " Lupberger said. "That destroys schedules."

To keep a project on track, he said, homeowners should insist on meeting with the contractor regularly. When he was a builder years ago, Lupberger would sit down with his clients for about 40 minutes once a week in the morning, when everyone tended to be most focused and eager to get on with the day, he said.

At each meeting, he would take notes on a multiple-copy memo form, detail a plan of action and assign responsibility for the tasks ahead—as in who needed to make roofing or brick selections by what date. He would then give a copy of the notes to the homeowner to sign, creating a paper trail and establishing joint accountability.

Homeowners and their contractors can go a step further by keeping an on-site job book in which the owner can jot down questions or concerns that the crew should address the next day, he said.

"Organization is everything," Lupberger said. "You're making hundreds of selections and decisions, and if this is not done in an organized fashion, you will be overwhelmed and your budget is going to be all over the board."

Begin optional add end

You will be especially overwhelmed if you are not realistic about your living arrangements while construction crews rip apart your home, several builders said.

Frumin, the Washington homeowner, said his family decided early on that the most disruptive construction should begin at the end of one school year and wind down by the start of the next—which it did, through careful planning.

The crew started building onto the house in March. During the summer, Lena Frumin left with her son to visit her parents in California, and the two daughters took off for camp.

Soon after, the construction crew started tearing up the inside of the house. Matt Frumin stayed, cooking on an outdoor grill and sleeping in a new room that was nearly exposed to the outdoors.

In mid-July, the family regrouped for a vacation. In August, they borrowed the homes of vacationing friends, then moved back into their own house in September.

Frumin looks back at it as a "sort of fun" adventure, he said. "For us, it was clearly a positive experience with a happy ending, so much so that we hosted a Christmas party for the contractor a year and a half later."

Homeowner decides to build. Excitement soars. Budget and wish list don't mesh. Excitement wanes. Construction begins; frame takes shape. Excitement hits high.

Sun safety for kids

Day camp and beach vacations make summer an outdoor go-go season for many kids, but the amount of UV radiation they soak up may determine their risk of skin cancer as adults.

Recent studies suggest 80 percent of lifetime sun exposure occurs before age 18, says Raquel Hernandez, a pediatrician at Johns Hopkins Harriet Lane Clinic in Baltimore.

That accumulated exposure is linked to skin cancer and premature aging (in the form of wrinkles and leathery skin) and eye damage. Just one blistering sunburn in childhood can increase a child's risk of developing melanoma by up to 50 percent, she adds.

Sunscreen of at least SPF 30 is an important ally in protecting young skin against the sun's damaging effects.

But experts say you can do more to protect young skin. Covering children's skin with clothing protects better than any sunscreen can, says Stanley Miller, a dermatologist at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

He recommends keeping kids (and adults) in the shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's ultraviolet radiation is strongest, dressing them in dark clothes with a tight weave and encouraging them to wear sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat of at least four inches. (Good luck!)

Some companies such as Lands' End and Solumbra have created lightweight clothing with built-in sun protection designed to last through washings.

Not all doctors see great value in wearing treated fabric of this kind, but Miller says he is "a big fan of this clothing," which he says does "a better job of blocking out the sun since you don't have to worry about sweating or reapplying it like sunscreen. And they are making it much more hip-looking." ***(The Washington Post)***

Keep your holiday ornaments organized

(c) 2007, The Washington Post

As you begin to dismantle the tree and take down other holiday decorations, get organized for next year. Review the ornaments you did not hang this year, the stuffed Santas and extra stockings you did not display. Donate them or throw them out. If you didn't need them this year, chances are you won't need them next.

Some people buy large plastic lidded tubs at Target or the Container Store and separate decorations, wrapping paper and other supplies by holiday. If you get the same size storage boxes, it's easy to stack and rotate them so the upcoming holiday is on top. Make sure you label each box clearly.

Ornaments require the most care. You can buy boxes with dividers for ornaments or use boxes with cardboard bottle dividers from a local liquor store. In either case, wrap especially fragile or meaningful ornaments in tissue paper for safekeeping. Wrap garland or strings of tree lights around empty wrapping paper tubes or rectangular sheets of cardboard.

Another tip: Make some notes about what you did this year, including gift lists, menus for special dinners and parties, addresses, etc. so you can review them next year.

— Liz Seymour

■■■■

Scouring flea markets and yard sales for furniture is a smart way to find style, function and vintage personality at reasonable prices. But sometimes older pieces are accompanied by funky old smells, especially inside long-closed cupboards and drawers.

If you find a piece in need of a fragrance refresher, here's a clever solution: Set an uncovered bowl of baking soda inside for a few days. The soda will absorb the musty odors, making your old piece ready for a new life.

— Terri Sapienza

Lou Manfredini of Ace Hardware demonstrate the ways of keeping holiday ornaments organized.

THIS IS A HAMMER

New disposer deposes dishwasher

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Ever since a handyman installed a new disposer, I have been unable to use my dishwasher. The first time I turned on the dishwasher after the installation, water gushed everywhere. It looks like a hose wasn't attached. I can't get the handyman to return my calls. Can I fix this myself?—Joyce P., Palm Bay, Fla.

A: It sounds like the handyman didn't finish the job, all right. It is possible to attach the hose yourself, although you might want a strong helper to handle this task as it will require levering a few things in and out of place while working underneath the sink cabinet.

Disposers have an area to connect the dishwasher's drain hose, called the dishwasher nipple. The sink is draining just fine, which means the plug is in place. Locate this nipple, but don't do anything yet.

First, locate the dishwasher drain hose. Make sure it will reach the nipple on the disposer. If it is too short, you'll need to replace the hose—measure the distance between the hose connection on the dishwasher and the nipple, head for the home-improvement store, and pick up a hose that is a couple inches longer than that. If it is too long, the drain hose can be cut to the proper length using a hacksaw or tubing cutter.

Next, make sure the dishwasher drain hose can be properly secured—it should have a metal hose clamp on the end that will go over the nipple; if not, the home improvement store will have one.

Now, you're ready. Turn off power to the circuit controlling the disposer. Remove the plug in the nipple, using a screwdriver to pry it out. Slide the dishwasher drain hose completely over the nipple so that the end of the hose touches the disposer body. Tighten the metal hose clamp (use a Phillips head screwdriver and a pair of pliers to do this).

Turn the circuit back on. Run the dishwasher, keeping an eye on the drain hose. If you're really unsure, place a bucket underneath the disposer to catch any leaking water. You may have to readjust the hose's position or tighten the clamp, but as long as the plug isn't still in the nipple you shouldn't have any more problems. And you'll have your dishwasher back.

HOME TIP: If your disposer doesn't run when you turn it on, try pressing the reset button located on the bottom of the unit.

■■■■

Q. Last year during a spell of unusual cold, I turned on the kitchen sink tap and noticed the water flow was very weak. Right away I knew that a pipe was freezing. My husband went to the cellar and felt along the cold-water supply line until he found a couple of very cold sections of pipe. Because water was still flowing through the tap we didn't shut off the flow of water. We wrapped old towels around the freezing spots and poured hot water from a tea kettle over each towel. Very quickly—within 20 minutes—the water began flowing normally from the tap.

This year we wrapped insulation around the supply lines, both hot and cold—to conserve heat in the hot line, and to prevent the cold line from freezing. Just wanted to let you know that the "hot-water-and-towels" method is no-cost and really works.—Blair W., White Plains, N.Y.

A: Thanks for the story! Insulating pipes and monitoring the flow of water during cold spells are effective ways to prevent frozen and burst pipes. It's a good idea, when temperatures in your area drop well below normal, to let the taps drip steadily until the weather improves—water moving through the pipes will help prevent freezing as well.

This winter is already shaping up to be exceptionally cold and snowy in the East and Midwest. In addition to preventing pipe freezes, homeowners should make sure that heavy snow doesn't cause problems, either. High snowdrifts can cover vents you don't normally pay attention to, such as dryer and heating vents, potentially causing gases to back up into the house. Ice can form inside unshielded vent stacks, so that sewer gases don't vent properly. Clear snow and ice away from ventilation exit points as soon as a storm ends.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Texas-Style Chili

A pot of this chili simmering on the range brings our children in from the cold mighty quickly. Little chunks of tender beef with onions and green peppers—but no beans—are simmered in a thick tomato sauce.

3 1/2 pounds beef for stew
1/4 cup salad oil
2 medium onions, chopped
3 medium green peppers, diced
4 cloves garlic, crushed
2 cans (28-ounce) tomatoes
1 can (12-ounce) tomato paste
1/3 cup chili powder
1/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons dried oregano leaves
3/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper

1. Cut beef for stew into 1/2-inch cubes. In 8-quart Dutch oven over high heat, in hot salad oil, cook one-third of meat at a time, until browned. With slotted spoon, remove meat cubes to bowl as they brown; set aside.

2. Reserve 1/2 cup onions; cover and set aside. Add green peppers, garlic and remaining onions to drippings in Dutch oven; over medium-high heat, cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Return meat to Dutch oven; add tomatoes with their liquid, tomato paste, chili powder, sugar, salt, oregano leaves, cracked black pepper and 2 cups water; over high heat, heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 1 1/2 hours or until meat is fork-tender, stirring occasionally.

4. Spoon chili into large bowl. Pass reserved onion to sprinkle over each serving. Serves 12.

Chili Corn Chips

COOK: 8 minutes
TOTAL: 15 minutes
MAKES: 4 servings

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
4 (6-inch) low-fat corn tortillas
Nonstick cooking spray

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.

2. In cup, mix cumin, chili powder and salt. Spray 1 side of each tortilla with nonstick cooking spray, sprinkle with chili-powder mixture.

3. Cut each tortilla into 8 wedges and place on ungreased large cookie sheet. Bake tortillas 8 to 10 minutes until crisp, cool on wire rack. If not serving right away, store in tightly covered container.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on January 11, 2008 (Friday), from 10:30am-2:30pm at the Conference Room, Man Amko Center, Garapan, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Roll Call
- B. Quorum
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  1. December 17, 2007-Special Meeting
  2. December 6, 2007-Regular Meeting

II. Reports
- A. Program Director
  1. Monthly Report for December, 2007
- B. Standing Committees
  1. Personnel
  2. Education Curriculum
  3. Executive
  4. Finance
  5. Public Relations
- C. Status Reports
  1. Program Improvement Funds
- D. Financial Report
  1. Monthly Financial Status Report for December, 2007

III. Other Matters
V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RECEPTIONIST / COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT

The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, has a full-time position vacancy for a Receptionist / Collections Assistant. The successful candidate must be a US citizen or IR, be a high school graduate, and have good English language and bookkeeping skills. Duties will include greeting visitors to the Office, answering the telephone, assisting with the Firm's collections practice, and other related duties.
The salary is competitive.

Applications may be obtained at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe. Completed applications must be accompanied by a police clearance and proof of US citizenship or IR status. No telephone calls, please.

The Good Life

Ex-test pilot Art Nalls with his Sea Harrier FA.2 that once was used by the British Royal Navy. After an emergency landing, he had it towed on St. Mary's County, Md., roads, riding in the cockpit dressed as Santa Claus.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Flying back in his own warplane in time,

By JENNA JOHNSON

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—St. Mary's County Regional Airport is home to a fleet of single-engine Cessnas, many of them owned by amateur pilots and parked in tidy rows just off the runway. But in a hangar at the edge of the grounds sits a Harrier, a hulking jet that takes off and lands vertically, cruises at speeds in excess of 600 mph and is similar to the Marines' primary attack aircraft.

That is Art Nalls' plane.

Nalls, a 53-year-old former Marine test pilot who made a fortune in real estate, has turned flying into an extraordinarily expensive hobby. He believes that his newest acquisition—the Harry, as he calls it—is the world's only privately owned, flyable Harrier. Although Nalls wouldn't say how much he paid for the plane, he said fuel alone costs about $75 for every minute in the air.

But in jets, Nalls says he has found a fountain of youth.

"When I am up there, it's just like I'm 25 again," he said.

He and his planes are regular topics of conversation at the small airport in southern Maryland, a stomping ground for retired military pilots, some of whom trained at the nearby Patuxent River Naval Air Station, one of only two military test pilot schools in the country.

On a recent morning, in a lounge facing the runway, pilots swapped stories about Nalls' latest adventure: Problems with the Harry's hydraulic system forced an emergency landing at the military base in November, on its second flight. Since he couldn't fly it back, Nalls had the jet hooked to a pickup truck and towed nearly eight miles to the airport, escorted by police cars. He sat in the cockpit, dressed as Santa Claus.

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" Nalls bellowed, waving at truckers and other motorists as the jet limped along Route 235, narrowly missing traffic lights and straddling a median as it turned onto Airport Road.

Such antics explain why Nalls has earned a reputation as a cowboy, a multimillionaire fond of indulging idiosyncratic interests. In the 1970s, he held a Guinness record for building and riding the world's smallest rideable bicycle, which was less than five inches tall.

Nalls, who was born and raised in Alexandria, Va., learned to fly as a midshipman at the Naval Academy. On his second flight, he was flipping loops and executing rolls. In 1985, he was the only Marine to attend the test pilot school at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

> "When I am up there, it's just like I'm 25 again."

After graduating, Nalls began to test the Harrier II and another jet. One test required him to shut down the engine in flight, falling like a rock as the engine cooled, and then restart it. His total flight time in planes with their engines off is more than six hours.

Nalls spent most of his career in Harriers, including an AV-8A that he launched off ship decks more than 400 times. He traveled widely and was in Beirut for a stint that ended just before the Marine barracks there was bombed in 1983.

Then, in 1990, Nalls took a beer bottle to the face when he intervened in a Marine bar fight; his nose was broken and his hearing was affected. Grounded for medical reasons, he soon retired from the military.

He turned to real estate and development, buying and renting apartments, houses and commercial buildings in Virginia and Washington, where he lives with his wife, Pat. Nalls, whose holdings have included more than 250 units and buildings, did well in real estate, but he missed flying.

So, in 2001, Nalls began to buy jets.

First there was the Russian Yak-3, a jet he calls Red Heat. Then came a Czech Aero Vodochody L-39 Albatros, an "absolute rocket ship" that he refers to as the Black Jet.

But what Nalls really wanted was a Harrier. Getting one from the Marines was out of the question because the Corps' retired Harriers are dismantled. Two years ago, Nalls found a British dealer selling a Sea Harrier FA.2 that had been used by the Royal Navy.

Nalls flew to England. The plane's engine wasn't working and its wiring was a tangled mess, but he bought it. Although he wouldn't say what he paid, a similar plane in working condition was once valued at more than $20 million.

At the St. Mary's airport, a crew of mostly volunteer mechanics and plane enthusiasts brought the Harrier back to life, cobbling together parts from eBay and elsewhere. Nalls prepared for the maiden flight in simulators—after all, it had been 16 years since he had made a vertical landing.

Questions remained, however, even on the eve of the flight. "We didn't even know if it would hover," Nalls said. "You don't know until you get up there."

On Nov. 10, he successfully flew the Harry, lifting off and then landing from a perfect hover at the St. Mary's airport.

The next day brought the emergency landing at the naval base. About 12 minutes into the flight, a hydraulic warning light clicked on, and the Harrier's landing gear would not lock into place. Nalls asked for permission to land at the base, threw the plane into a hover and slowly lowered it to the ground, where a crash crew waited.

The plane fell the final three feet, landing with a smack. Nalls said officials at the base weren't thrilled with the spur-of-the-moment visitor or the large, slightly damaged British jet.

It was the second civilian emergency landing of the year at the base, said John Romer, a base spokesman.

Nalls hopes to fix the problem in the next two months and have the Harry back in the sky soon. Until then, he is left to fly his other two jets.

So it was that on a recent Saturday he pulled on thick boots and zipped up an olive flight suit decorated with badges he earned as a test pilot and with his call name, Kaos. He jumped into the cockpit of the Czech plane and strapped himself into a parachute-packed ejection seat.

The glass dome came down, sealing him inside. Nalls adjusted his headset.

"Ready to rock and roll?" he asked. Then came the speed.

The runway ran out, and the jet was hoisted into the air, swept up in the wind and blown away like a dandelion. It drifted higher and higher, then tilted to one side, opening up the view below.

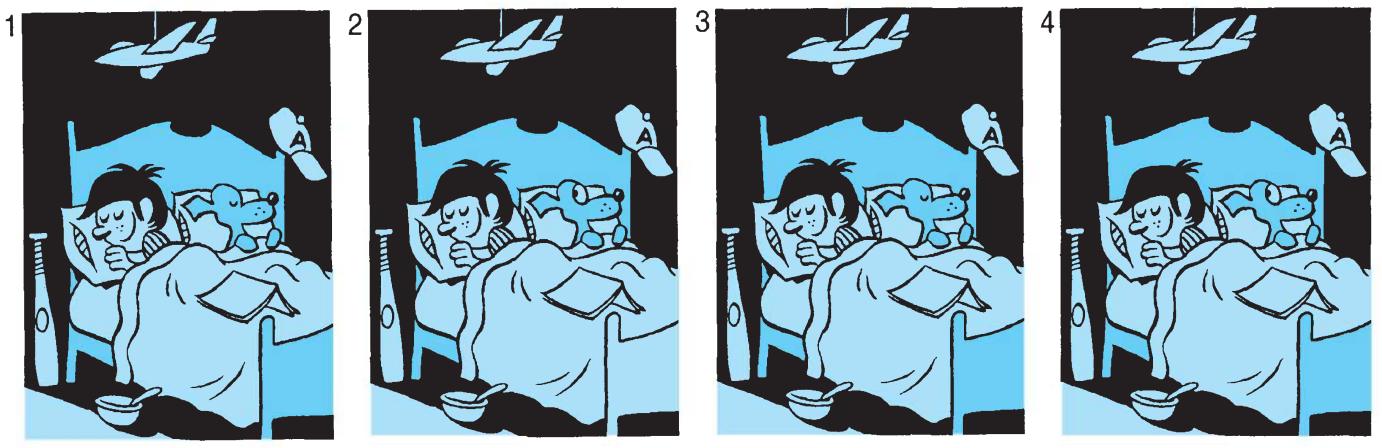
Nalls pointed out landmarks below: the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, the approaching blue of the Chesapeake Bay. He rolled to the other side and felt the push of 2 Gs. The only bumps came when he jiggled the controls, gently rocking the jet from side to side.

He sat perfectly still as the world rushed around him in a swirl.

"I love it out here," he murmured into his headset. "I love this plane."

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

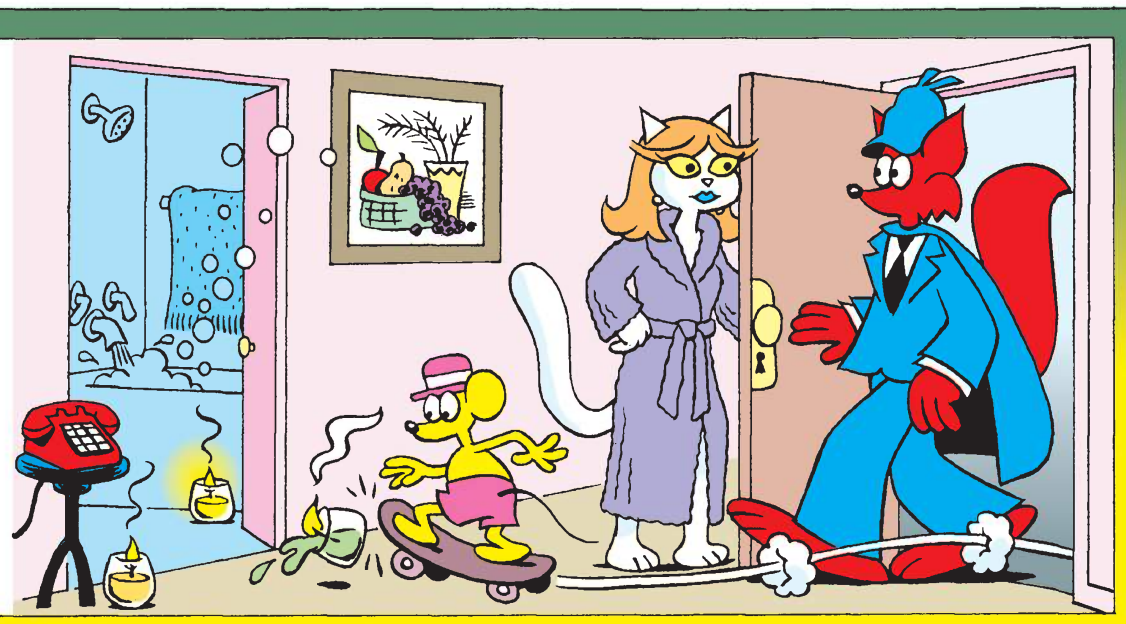
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



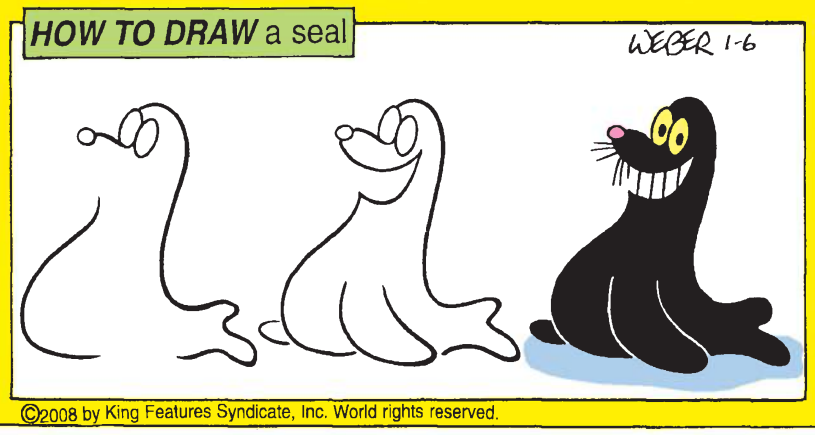
Answer -- Numbers one and three.

Citizens reported prank phone calls coming from Cassandra Cat's home phone earlier this evening. Cassandra claims she wasn't home earlier this evening. She says she just arrived a few minutes ago, lit scented candles, and started water for a bubble bath. Why does Slylock Fox doubt Cassandra's story?

Solution -- Slylock saw a significant amount of liquid wax spill when Max knocked over the candle. There wouldn't be that much melted wax if Cassandra had lit the candle a few minutes ago.

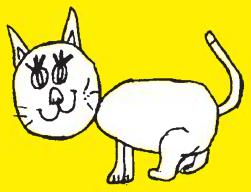


HOW TO DRAW a seal



YOUR DRAWING

Our featured artist is Kelsey Lane of Milton, West Virginia



You can submit your art online at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

According to candle manufacturers' surveys, what percentage of candles are purchased by women?

a) 67 percent
b) 83 percent
c) 96 percent
d) 100 percent

Answer -- c)

Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- Stick, flame, smoke, bird, eyes in tree and fish skeleton.

New! The fourth ***Find the six differences*** collection is here. Semd $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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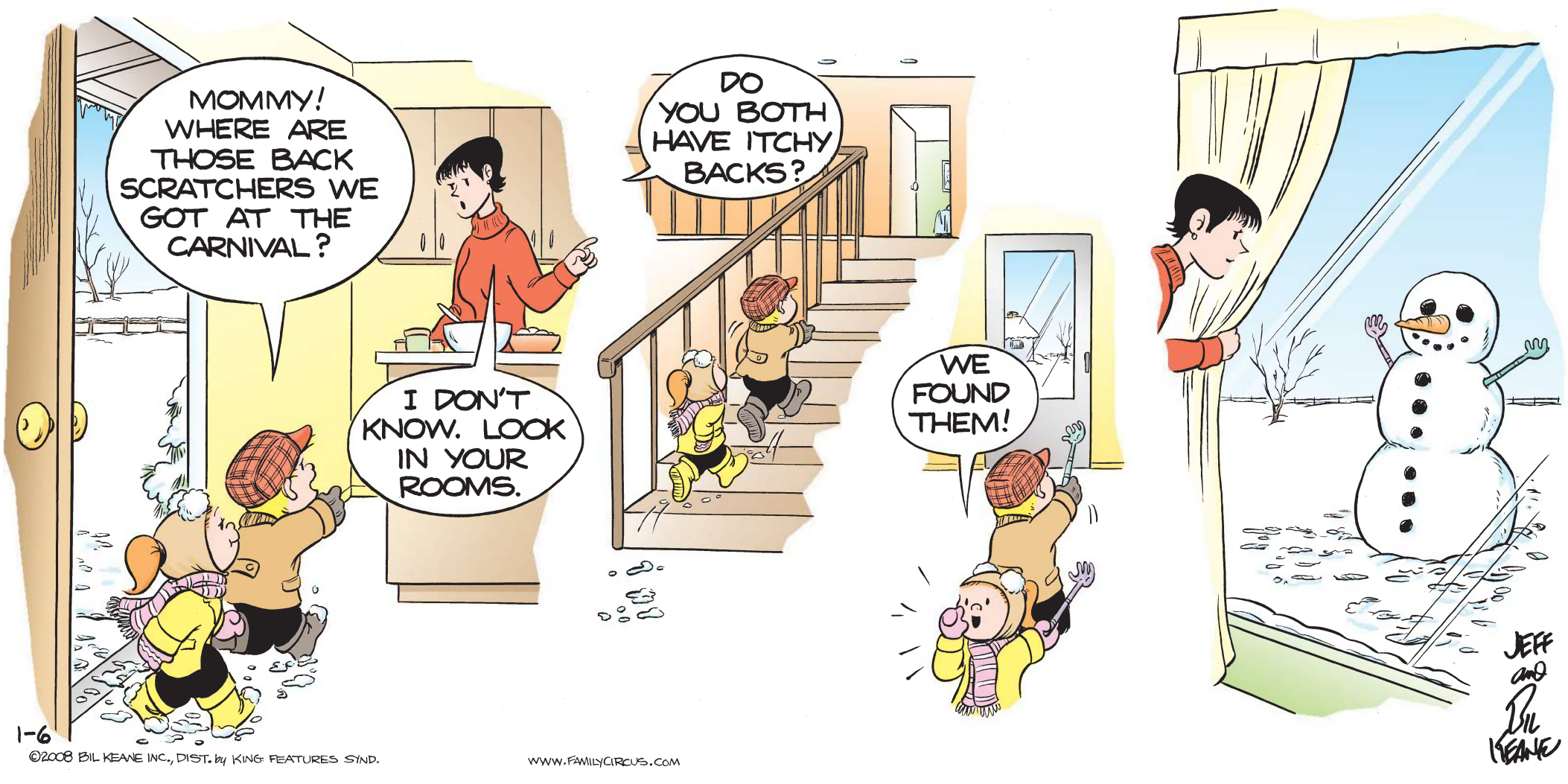
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


MOMMY! WHERE ARE THOSE BACK SCRATCHERS WE GOT AT THE CARNIVAL?
I DON'T KNOW. LOOK IN YOUR ROOMS.
DO YOU BOTH HAVE ITCHY BACKS?
WE FOUND THEM!
JEFF and BIL KEANE
1-6

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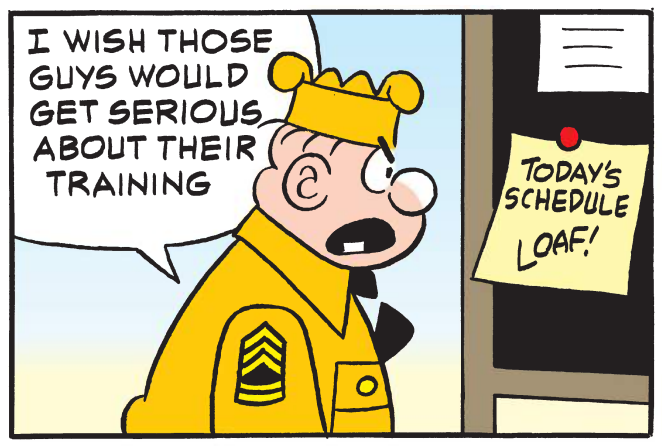
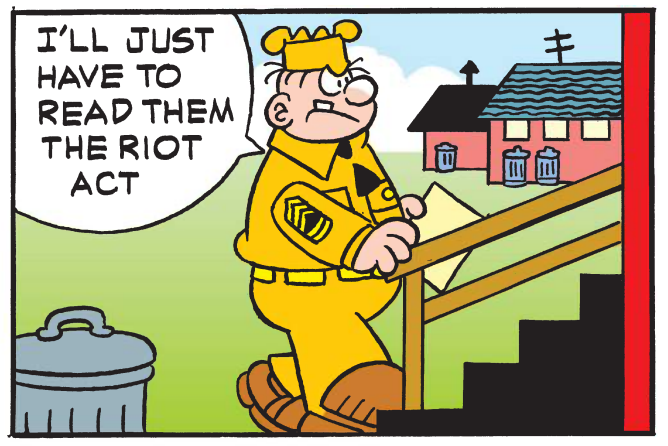
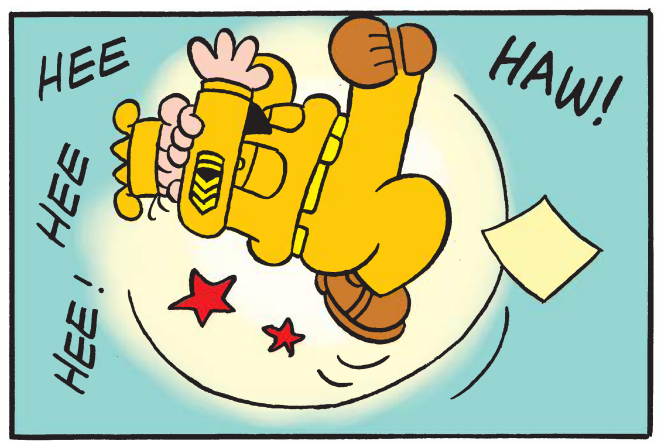
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

Mort Walker's beetle bailey®







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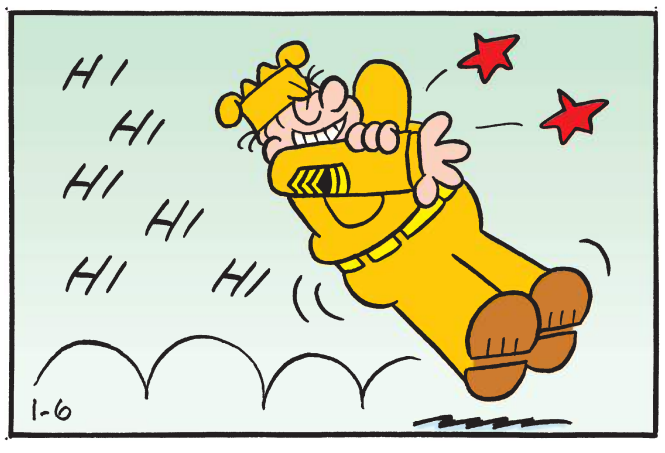

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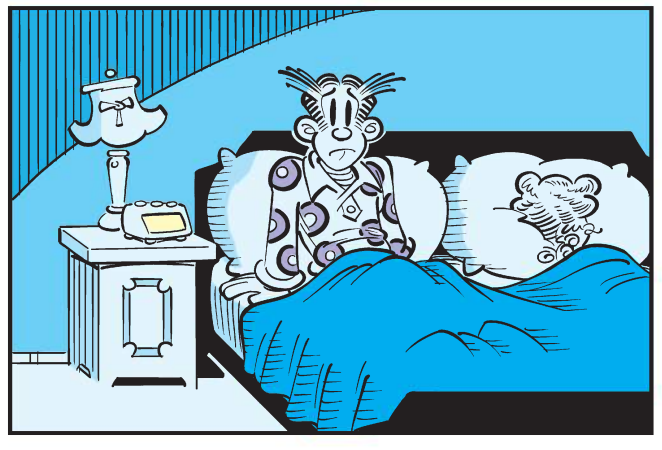
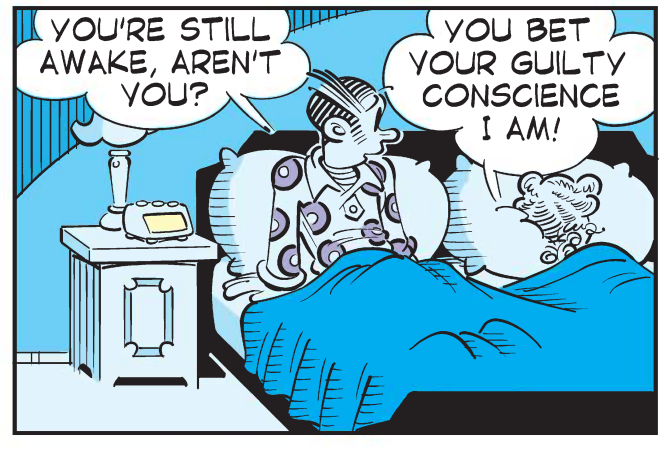
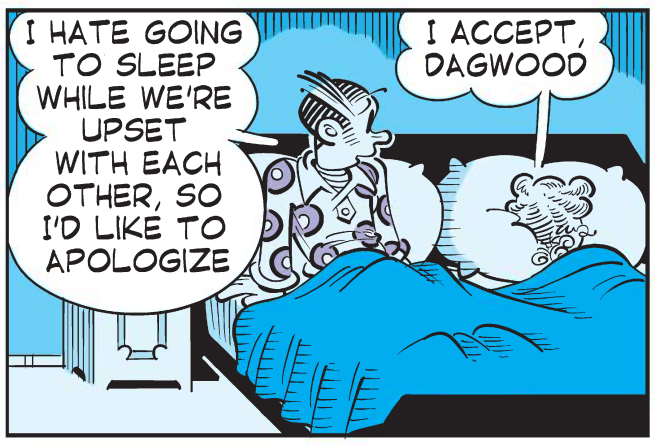
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL







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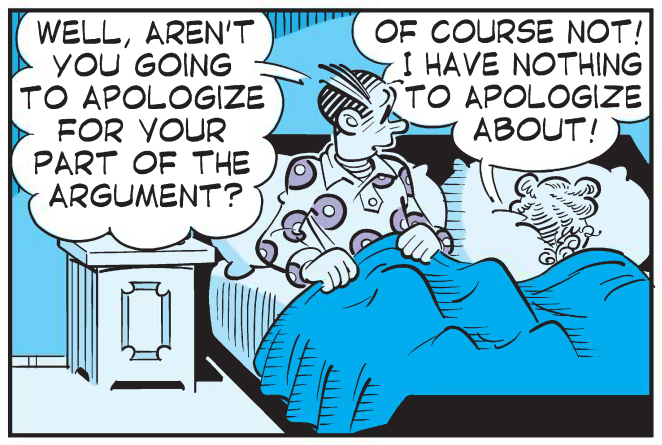

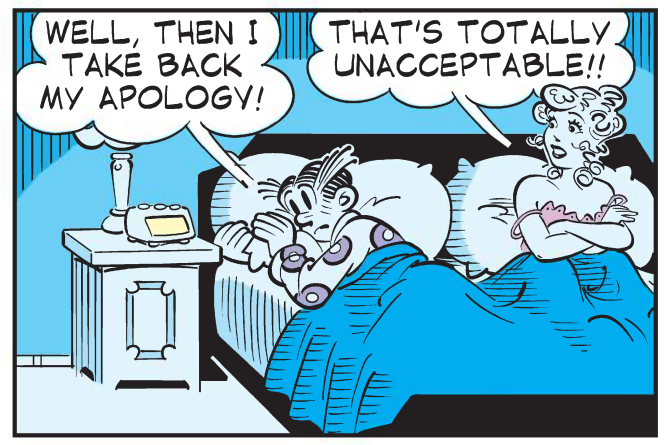

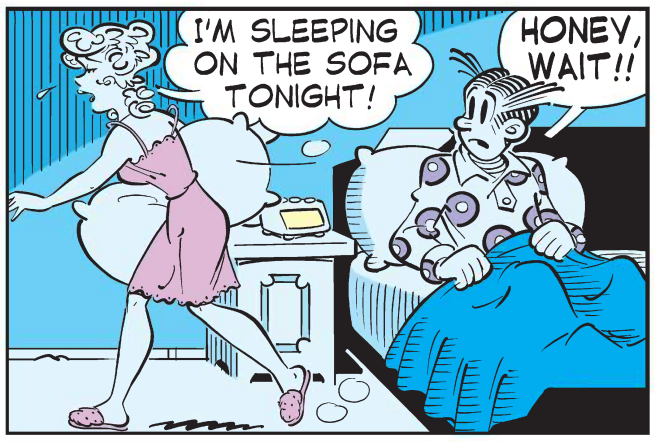

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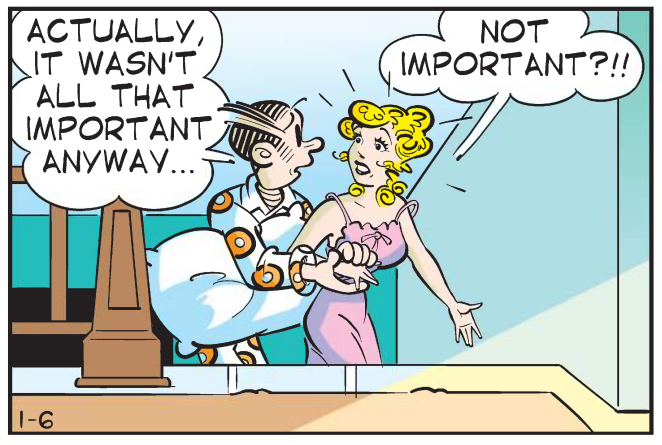

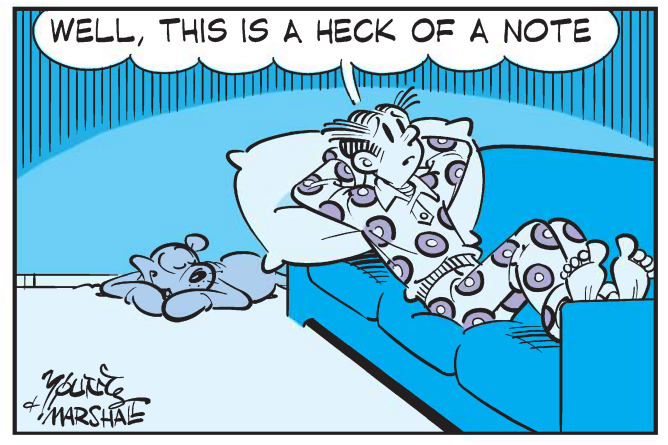

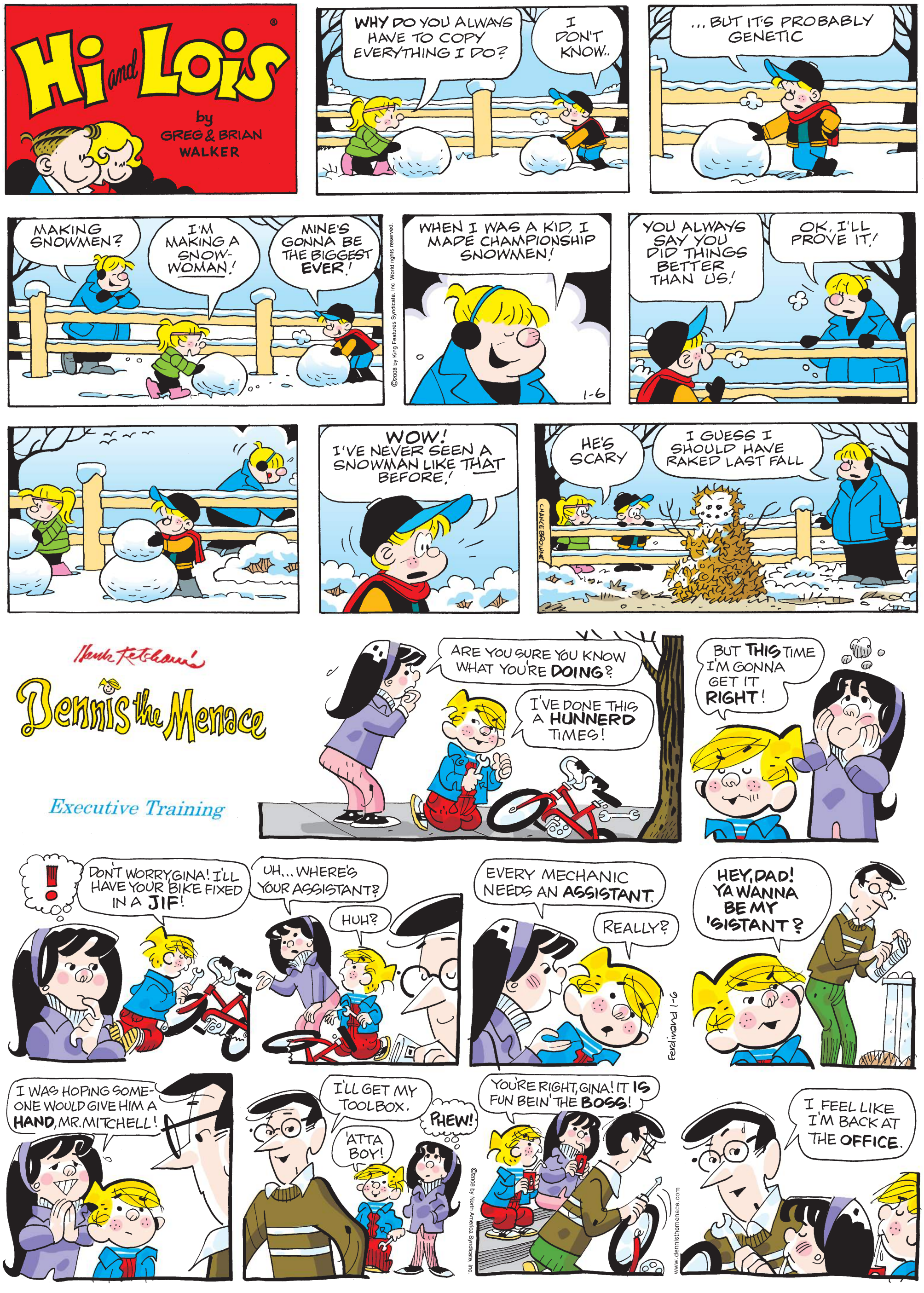
Hi and Lois
by GREG & BRIAN WALKER
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO COPY EVERYTHING I DO?
I DON'T KNOW..
... BUT IT'S PROBABLY GENETIC
MAKING SNOWMEN?
I'M MAKING A SNOW-WOMAN!
MINE'S GONNA BE THE BIGGEST EVER!
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WHEN I WAS A KID, I MADE CHAMPIONSHIP SNOWMEN!
1-6
YOU ALWAYS SAY YOU DID THINGS BETTER THAN US!
OK, I'LL PROVE IT!
WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN A SNOWMAN LIKE THAT BEFORE!
HE'S SCARY
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE RAKED LAST FALL
©HANCE BROWNE
Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the Menace
Executive Training
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
I'VE DONE THIS A HUNNERD TIMES!
BUT THIS TIME I'M GONNA GET IT RIGHT!
!
DON'T WORRY, GINA! I'LL HAVE YOUR BIKE FIXED IN A JIF!
UH... WHERE'S YOUR ASSISTANT?
HUH?
EVERY MECHANIC NEEDS AN ASSISTANT.
REALLY?
Ferdinand 1-6
HEY, DAD! YA WANNA BE MY 'SISTANT?
I WAS HOPING SOME-ONE WOULD GIVE HIM A HAND, MR. MITCHELL!
I'LL GET MY TOOLBOX.
'ATTA BOY!
PHEW!
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.
YOU'RE RIGHT, GINA! IT IS FUN BEIN' THE BOSS!
I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK AT THE OFFICE.
www.dennisthemenace.com

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
HAMMIE, DO YOU WANT TO FILL THE SQUIRREL FEEDER?
SURE!
WE'LL GIVE THEM SOME SUNFLOWER SEEDS AND PEANUTS THIS TIME. THEY LOVE PEANUTS.
K.
Slam!
BACK ALREADY? WERE THE SQUIRRELS HUNGRY?
YEAH...
...AND IMPATIENT, TOO.
www.babyblues.com
©2008, BABY BLUES PARTNERSHIP DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 1/6
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Salome's Stars

ARIES *(March 21 to April 19)* It's a good time for reunions with those very special people from your past. You could be pleasantly surprised by what comes to light during one of these get-togethers.

TAURUS *(April 20 to May 20)* The new year gets off to an encouraging start for the Bold Bovine who takes that demanding workplace challenge by the horns and steers it in the right direction.

GEMINI *(May 21 to June 20)* The clever Gemini will be quick to spot the telltale signs of workplace changes that could open up new opportunities for the right person. (And that's you, isn't it?)

CANCER *(June 21 to July 22)* The Moon Child's post-holiday letdown soon lifts as you begin to get back into your comfortable routine. Someone from your past extends a surprise bid to reconnect.

LEO *(July 23 to August 22)* You've been the ultimate social Lion over the holidays. Now it's time to relax and recharge your energy so you can be at your best when you pounce on that new project.

VIRGO *(August 23 to September 22)* A relationship could be moving in a direction you might not want to follow. Step back for a better overview of the situation. You might be surprised at what you see.

LIBRA *(September 23 to October 22)* Emotions rule at the start of the week, affecting your perception about a decision. Best advice: Avoid commitments until that good Libran sense kicks back in.

SCORPIO *(October 23 to November 21)* A longtime friendship could take a romantic turn early in the new year. While this pleases your passionate side, your logical self might want to go slow.

SAGITTARIUS *(November 22 to December 21)* Someone might make a surprising disclosure about a trusted friend or workplace colleague. Stay cool and reserve judgment until you get more facts.

CAPRICORN *(December 22 to January 19)* You might think you've found what you've been looking for. But appearances can be deceiving. Don't act on your discovery until you know more about it.

AQUARIUS *(January 20 to February 18)* You're no doubt anxious for that confusing situation to be cleared up. But don't press for a quick resolution or you might overlook some vital facts.

PISCES *(February 19 to March 20)* Now that your holiday distractions are easing, you need to apply yourself to getting those unfinished tasks done so you can begin a new project with a clean slate.

BORN THIS WEEK: People respect both your wisdom and your deep sense of loyalty and compassion.

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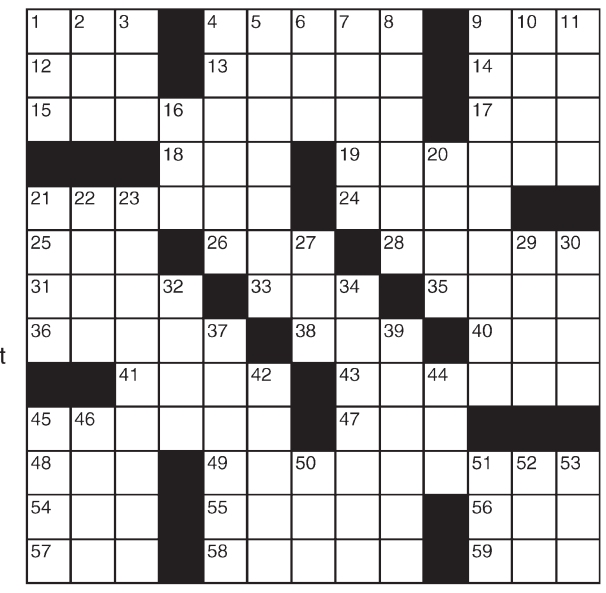
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Suitcase
4 Analgesic targets
9 Tackle the slopes
12 Work with
13 Excessive
14 Central
15 Type of con
17 Right angle
18 Beerlike beverage
19 Bumbershoot
21 Respond
24 Vend
25 Tier
26 Longing
28 Transactions
31 Concept
33 Speck
35 Stagehand
36 — of the Wisconsin (noted gorge)
38 Unspeaking
40 Carte lead-in
41 Mad king of literature
43 Constant sufferer
45 Plot
47 Swiss canton
48 Before
49 Entrance
54 Meadow
55 Speak from the soapbox
56 Ultramodernist
57 Nourished
58 Of old Scandinavia
59 Leno's network

DOWN
1 Clear the tables
2 Blond shade
3 "Golly!"
4 Grooved wheel
5 Irate
6 McKinley's first lady
7 Desensitizes
8 Become 5-Down
9 Be suspicious
10 Slay
11 One way to stand by
16 Legislation
20 Couturier Cassini
21 Sahara-like
22 Protuberance
23 Egotist
27 Artesian appellation
29 Easter emblem
30 Sail support
32 Sheltered from the storm
34 Commotions
37 He had a bad hair day
39 Actress Matlin
42 Duplicate, for short
44 Eve, originally
45 The "S" in "SCUBA"
46 Great Lakes tribe
50 Listener
51 Hostel
52 Beak
53 Holliday at the O.K. Corral

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top ten

Snowiest U.S. Cities

1. Blue Canyon, Calif.
2. Marquette, Mich.
3. Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
4. Syracuse, N.Y.
5. Caribou, Maine
6. Mount Shasta, Calif.
7. Lander, Wyo.
8. Flagstaff, Ariz.
9. Sexton Summit, Ore.
10. Muskegon, Mich.

Source: National Climatic Data Center

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

C	A	P	■	A	V	O	W	■	A	V	I	D
O	I	L	■	M	I	R	O	■	M	I	C	E
D	R	A	W	B	A	C	K	■	B	E	E	N
■	■	Y	E	L	L	■	■	B	U	D	D	Y
S	A	B	L	E	■	M	A	Y	S	■	■	■
O	P	A	L	■	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L
D	E	C	■	G	I	M	M	E	■	E	R	A
A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S	■	B	E	A	D
■	■	■	B	A	T	S	■	G	O	D	L	Y
E	L	B	O	W	■	■	B	L	O	B	■	■
L	I	E	U	■	Z	W	I	E	B	A	C	K
A	M	E	N	■	I	O	T	A	■	C	O	O
N	E	R	D	■	P	E	E	N	■	K	E	N

United States

AP

Homeowner Richard Garcia stands next to his home in Roseville, Calif., after a large pine tree, uprooted by strong winds, slammed through the roof, Friday, Jan. 4, 2008.

More than 1M lose power in Calif. storm

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Howling winds, pelting rain and heavy snow pummeled California on Friday, toppling trees, flipping big rigs, cutting power to more than a million people and forcing evacuations in mudslide-prone areas.

Flights were grounded and highways closed in Northern California as gusts reached 80 mph during the second wave of an arctic storm that sent trees crashing onto houses, cars and roads. Forecasters expected the storm to dump as much as 10 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada by Sunday.

Highways from Sacramento to San Francisco were closed because of debris or toppled big rigs blocking lanes, and local roads were flooded. Interstate 80 was closed in the Sierra, the main link between Northern California and Nevada.

More than a million people from the Bay Area to the Central Valley were in the dark. Crews worked to restore power, but it could be days before all the lights are on, said Pacific Gas & Electric spokeswoman Darlene Chiu.

In Southern California, authorities in Orange County ordered an estimated 3,000 residents to evacuate homes in four canyons scarred by wildfires and therefore prone to mudslides.

Flash flood warnings were issued in canyon burn areas in Malibu and in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Riverside and San Bernardino counties, east of Los Angeles, deployed swift-water rescue teams as a precaution.

The state opened its emergency operations center Friday morning to coordinate storm response, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he had spoken with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff by phone.

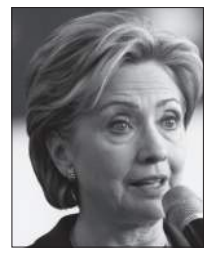
"Preparation is really the heart of this whole thing," Schwarzenegger said after touring the state emergency operation center at the Los Alamitos Joint Training Base.

Homeowners in Southern California stacked sandbags and hay bales around their homes while residents in the low-lying areas of the Central Valley piled sandbags to barricade their homes from streams that forecasters warned might swell.

Clinton, Obama draw contrast on path to WH

MILFORD, N.H. (AP)—Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama drew two distinct paths to the White House for raucous New Hampshire Democratic Party activists Friday night: She's tested and ready to stand her ground against Republicans while he's prepared to build a new majority that will put Democrats in power.

The two messages, delivered a day after the Iowa caucuses that gave Obama a victory and Clinton a stunning third-place finish, received boisterous receptions at the state party's annual fundraising dinner. They also featured the contrasting visions the candidates have not only for political success but for governing as well.



Clinton

Obama

"There are two big questions for voters in New Hampshire," Clinton said. "One is, who will be ready to be president on day one? Second, who can we nominate who will go the distance against the Republicans? I have been on the receiving end of all their incoming fire that they train on Democrats. I'm still here, I'm still standing."

Obama countered with a call for a broader political base founded on progressive values.

"If you know who you are, if you know what you believe in, if you know what you are fighting for, then you can afford to listen to folks who don't agree with you, you can afford to reach across the aisle every once in a while," Obama said. "It won'thurt you. You won't be compromised and you will be able to form the majorities that will defeat the special interests and ... win elections."

Clinton, Obama, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Rep. Dennis Kucinich all made their presidential pitches to the 3,000 hardy partisans assembled Friday night for the New Hampshire Democratic Party's fundraising dinner, the largest in its history.

Teen charged in bizarre missing dog case

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A telephone call at midnight normally would have awoken Bill Whiting, but he hadn't been sleeping much since his dog disappeared. He picked up the phone and couldn't believe what he heard.

Children were demanding $600 or else they would kill Edna, his beloved beagle mix. Whiting listened in horror to what sounded like the jingle of Edna's collar, and an animal yelping in pain. He agreed to pay the ransom.

"You don't understand, mister," a boy replied. "I want to kill your dog anyway."

What happened to Edna remains a mystery, but Philadelphia police have charged a 15-year-old with harassment, terroristic threats, theft by extortion and other counts for allegedly calling Whiting. Police have yet to find the dog.

Authorities gave no immediate explanation for how they traced the call.

"I've had tears today a couple of times. I don't see any happy news in this," a heartbroken Whiting said Friday. "I don't have a dog coming back, apparently." He also said he believes at least two children were involved.

Edna had been Whiting's constant companion for more than 10 years. The 57-year-old employee of the University of Pennsylvania's archaeology museum described Edna as a gentle dog that loved children and had been a therapy animal at nursing homes and hospitals.

Edna vanished on Halloween, after Whiting and the dog walked from his home in Philadelphia to a friend's house. Whiting thinks she slipped out into the unfamiliar neighborhood while the door was open for trick-or-treaters.

Frantic, he looked for hours, then printed up "Missing Dog" posters and plastered them around the neighborhood. The posters contained his cell phone number and offered a $500 reward.

Ten days after the dog disappeared, Whiting received the midnight call on his cell phone from a youth who demanded $600. Then a younger boy got on the phone and apparently began abusing an animal.

Whiting said he didn't recognize the yelps, since he had never heard Edna hurt before, but detected the sound of her collar, which had numerous tags and "jangled like a charm bracelet."

He begged them not to hurt the dog, and simultaneously dialed police from his land line.

Whiting went to a police station in the middle of the night to make a report. When he returned home a few hours later, his land line rang almost immediately. "We killed your dog," the voice said. "It's dead."

Whiting began to believe the children really did have Edna, since the land line phone number was only on the dog's tags, not the poster.

"I became hysterical," he said. "I started to tremble."

AP

In this undated photo provided by Bill Whiting, Whiting holds his dog, Edna. Philadelphia police have charged a teen with harassment, terror threats, and theft by extortion among other charges in the case involving Whiting's missing dog.

Police worked for weeks on tracing the calls, whose numbers came up as unavailable on Whiting's Caller ID. Publicity led to an outpouring of support for Whiting and rage against the perpetrators; rewards were offered by animal advocacy groups.

On Dec. 30, police arrested the 15-year-old, who was released to his family for a hearing Jan. 31.

ACROSS THE NATION

Maker of tainted dog food to pay $3.1M

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A company that made contaminated pet food that killed dozens of dogs nationwide will pay $3.1 million in a settlement with pet owners, an attorney said Friday. The pet food, which contained a mold called aflatoxin, was produced at Diamond Pet Foods' plant in South Carolina. The company will set up a fund to reimburse pet owners for the loss of their dog, veterinarian bills and the cost of any unreturned contaminated food, said attorney Jim Andrews, who represented a Knoxville, Tenn., family that sued the company. Diamond Pet Foods, based in Meta, Mo., acknowledged that workers at its Gaston, S.C., plant failed to follow internal testing procedures to ensure its products were safe.

Worker found dead at Utah Capitol

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A construction worker was found dead in a crawl space Friday at the Utah state Capitol, where government officials were holding a ceremony to mark the building's recent renovation. The body of John David Welsh, 30, was found in a confined space where heating ducts and pipes run, said Trooper Cameron Roden, a Utah Highway Patrol spokesman. Foul play was not suspected, but "we'll look into every aspect," Roden said. An autopsy was planned to determine the cause of death. Welsh had reported to work Friday morning. His body was discovered by another worker around 2 p.m., Roden said.

Inmate may have plotted another escape

ATLANTA (AP)—The man awaiting trial for a bloody escape at the Atlanta courthouse in 2005 is suspected of enlisting his pen-pal girlfriend, a paralegal and at least two sheriff's deputies in a scheme to break out again, according to law enforcement documents obtained by The Associated Press. Brian Nichols allegedly plotted to cut his way through the cinderblock walls of the Fulton County Jail, jump into a waiting van and make his way to his girlfriend up north. Nichols evidently used his considerable charm to draw his girlfriend into the plot, while some of the other players were bribed with cash and the prospect of romance with the woman, according to the documents, which include statements from the girlfriend and letters she exchanged with Nichols.

Asia

Bhutto's killing stokes reconciliation

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—As the House of Bhutto copes with its latest violent death, hope is growing that Benazir Bhutto's killing could help mend old strains in Pakistan's virtual royal family as it seeks to extend its political dynasty and lead the country away from military rule.

Even talk of a royal wedding of sorts has been raised to reconcile rival branches of the family, which have been at odds since the 1996 fatal shooting of Benazir's brother Murtaza in Karachi while she was prime minister.

Although Bhutto was praised for her ability to touch people across regional and cultural boundaries as a populist leader, she faced some of her toughest criticism from within her own family. Some relatives were quick to publicly raise her shortcomings, such as the accusations of corruption that twice forced her from office.

She was remembered by some family members as a kind person who never forgot to send presents on a birthday no matter where she was, and who invited them to dinner whether or not she had time to talk. But other relatives maintain Bhutto was an opportunist and that her heirs are now seeking to reap undeserved benefit from a family name revered for its association with her father, executed politician Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

It is just another aspect of the complicated nature of Benazir Bhutto's personality—praised as a Pakistani icon in her trademark white headscarf, but also criticized for her imperious nature.

Fatima Bhutto, the daughter of Benazir's late brother Murtaza, is a poet and politician who became a harsh critic of her aunt. But after her death, Fatima issued a public call for calm in the family.

"I never agreed with her politics. I never did. I never agreed with those she kept around her, the political opportunists, hangers-on, them. They repulse me. I never agreed with her version of events. Never," she wrote Sunday in Pakistan's The News.

"But in death, in death perhaps there is a moment to call for calm. To say, enough. We have had enough. We cannot, and we will not, take anymore madness," wrote Fatima, whose charisma, headstrong nature and striking looks have led to comparisons with her famous aunt.

RP nabs 2001 Dos Palmas kidnappers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two al-Qaida-linked Muslim militants—including one wanted for the 2001 kidnapping of three Americans and 17 other people from a resort island—were captured in separate raids in the southern Philippines, officials said Friday.

Troops arrested suspected Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Tuwatin Anahalul in Zamboanga del Sur province's Margusatubig town Thursday, said Lt. Gen. Nelson Allaga.

Anahalul, also called Abu Basilan, has a 2 million peso (US$48,700) bounty on his head.

"He was involved in the Lamitan siege and Dos Palmas kidnapping," Allaga said.

Allaga was referring to the 2001 kidnapping at the Dos Palmas resort in western Palawan province. The Abu Sayyaf kidnappers brought their hostages by boat from Palawan to southern Basilan island, where they raided a hospital in Lamitan town. The militants, with hostages in tow, escaped four days later from the hospital after battling government troops.

China to study sources of its pollution

BEIJING (AP)—China will conduct its first national survey of pollution sources in February to help control environmental deterioration in a country with some of the world's most tainted cities, state media said Friday.

The study will identify and collect data on sources of industrial, agricultural and residential pollution for two months, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing the head of the State Environmental Protection Administration, or SEPA.

"The results of the census will not be linked to any punishment or evaluation of the performance of local administrations," said Zhou Shengxian, SEPA's director. Administrations, companies and institutions "should not fear repercussions but should instead guarantee true, credible results."

China's cities have become among the most polluted in the world after more than two decades of rapid economic growth. While the country's communist leaders have repeatedly promised a cleanup, they say they are constrained by the expanding economy and a lack of technology.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia's Suharto in hospital

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto was hospitalized with anemia and intestinal swelling Friday after being treated at home for several days, doctors said. Suharto's condition was not considered life-threatening, but he would spend at least one night under observation at Pertamina Hospital, said Dr. Marjo Subiandono, head of the country's presidential medical team. The 86-year-old has been in and out of the hospital in recent years for strokes and intestinal bleeding. He is said to have suffered permanent brain damage and some speech loss from the ailments.

NKorea says it gave US nuclear list

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Friday it gave a list of its nuclear programs to the United States in November, claiming it tried to meet commitments under an international disarmament agreement and accusing the U.S. of not doing its part to deliver aid. North Korea also said that because of the delays by the U.S. and other parties to the six-nation talks, it was slowing the pace of disabling its nuclear facilities. The United States disputed North Korea's claims it handed over the information but still expressed confidence the process was moving ahead.

6.3-magnitude quake hits Sumatra coast

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A 6.3-magnitude earthquake rattled western Sumatra on Friday, the local Meteorological and Geophysics Agency said, causing frightened residents to flee their homes. There were no reports of damage or casualties in Bengkulu province, about 370 miles west of the capital Jakarta. The jolt, in the same area shaken by an 8.4 quake in September that killed 25 people, did not trigger a tsunami. The U.S. Geological Survey put Friday's tremor at a magnitude 5.9.

Suu Kyi plea raised on Myanmar holiday

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's Independence Day was marked Friday by opposition calls for the freeing of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners as the military rulers urged national discipline. "The essential first step toward building a democratic state and achieving national reconciliation is the process of political dialogue," said a statement by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy at its party headquarters. It called for the immediate release of all political prisoners, and monks who "peacefully demonstrated their beliefs and wishes" in last year's pro-democracy protests. Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate, has been under house arrest for 12 of the past 18 years.

Across the Globe

DNA: Orphan is Colombian hostage's son

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Results of a DNA test on Friday revealed why leftist rebels failed to deliver this week on their promise to free a 3-year-old boy born in captivity: Little Emmanuel has spent the last two years not in a jungle rebel camp, but in a Bogota foster home.

The story of Emmanuel has transfixed Colombia since a Colombian journalist first reported in a 2006 expose book that he was born to one of the rebels' most prominent hostages, former vice presidential candidate Clara Rojas, as the product of a relationship with one of her captors, reportedly a rank-and-file guerrilla named Rigo.

The story drew in Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has been negotiating with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, to release the child, his mother and another hostage. But what Chavez called "Operation Emmanuel" fell through this week when the rebels said operations by Colombia's U.S.-backed military were preventing them from handing over the hostages.

On Friday, chief federal prosecutor Mario Iguaran said DNA tests performed on Rojas' family members and an orphaned child proved that the boy known as Juan David Gomez is actually Rojas' son.

Terror threats cancel Dakar Rally

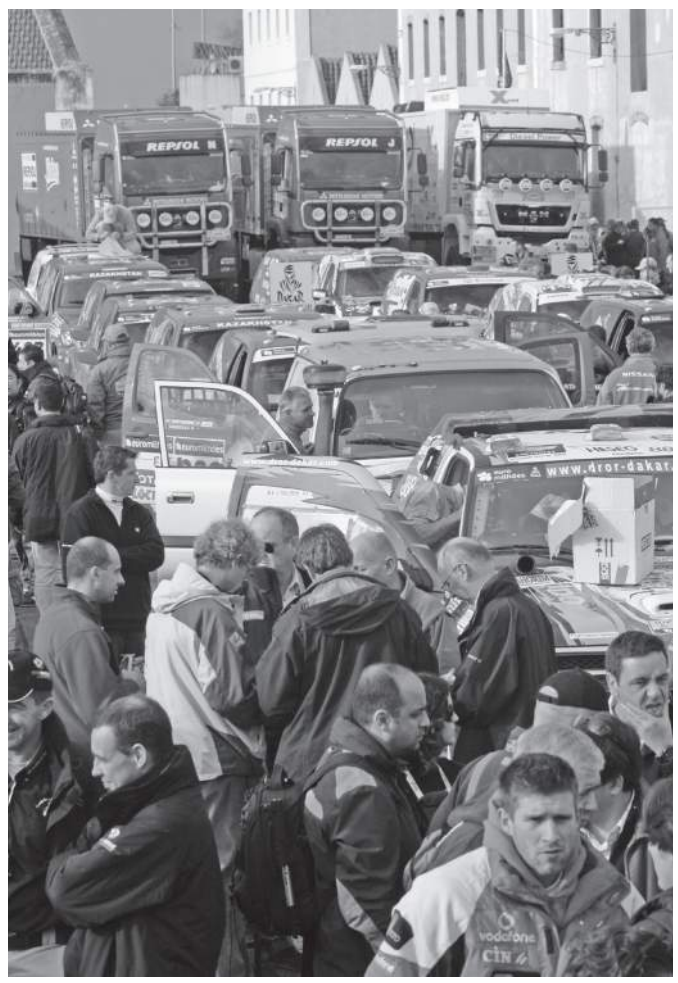
PARIS (AP)—The Dakar Rally, the epic motorcycle, car and truck race across the Sahara desert, was canceled Friday by organizers citing "direct" threats of terrorism from al-Qaida-linked militants.

The race was deemed too inviting—and too easy—a target for the terror group's new north African affiliate. The roughly 550 competitors were to have embarked Saturday on the 16-day, 5,760-mile trek through remote and hostile dunes and scrub from Europe to Senegal in west Africa.

Organizers of the rally, once known as the Paris-Dakar, cited warnings from the French government about safety after the al-Qaida-linked Dec. 24 slaying of a family of French tourists in Mauritania - where eight of the competition's 15 stages were to be held - and "threats launched directly against the race by terrorist organizations."

It was the first time that the 30-year-old rally, one of the biggest competitions in automobile racing, has been called off. The Dakar is one of the most prominent public events to be canceled since the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, when many sports events in the United States were canceled or postponed - some as a result of airport closings or in mourning for the victims.

The cancellation of such a world-renowned sports event is rare, particularly as a preemptive measure against terrorism. Even the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich continued, following a 34-hour pause, after 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were killed by Palestinian gunmen.



AP

Competitors stand near their cars after the organizers, ASO, (Amaury Sport Organization) decided to cancel the Dakar Rally on the eve of the race in Lisbon, Portugal, Friday Jan. 4, 2008.

Garbage crisis stirs protest in Naples

NAPLES, Italy (AP)—Stinking mounds of garbage piled up on the streets of Naples on Friday and officials around the country blamed organized crime and bureaucratic red tape for the city's refuse crisis.

Effigies of city officials, suspended from lampposts and trees, reflected the fury of Naples' citizens, who have had to live amid small mountains of their own refuse since Dec. 21, when collectors stopped gathering it because there was nowhere to take it.

Residents have resorted to setting trash on fire, raising fears of toxic smoke.

"Garbage is piling up outside our building," said Angela Sepe, a Neapolitan walking on the outskirts of the city. "I don't go downstairs any more to throw it away but throw it out the window because the garbage has already reached" as high as the second-floor window.

Naples and other parts of the southern Campania region have been plagued by a series of garbage crises for more than a decade. Dumps fill up and local communities block efforts to build new ones or create temporary storage sites. In 2004, a garbage crisis prompted weeks of protests.

Kenya opposition seeks new vote

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's opposition party demanded new presidential elections Friday as thousands of hungry slum dwellers swamped aid workers after days of deadly riots over the disputed vote cut supplies of groceries and water.

A spokesman for President Mwai Kibaki said there would only be a rerun of the Dec. 27 election if a court orders it. Kenya's high court, which can annul the vote and force a new one, was largely appointed by Kibaki.

"The government doesn't reject or accept this. Only the court can call for the rerun of the election," Alfred Mutua told The Associated Press.

Kibaki won a second term in the election, but international observers say the vote tally was flawed. His rival, Raila Odinga, accused him of stealing the election.

Focus

Al-Qaida uses women as suicide attackers

By DIAA HADID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—It goes against religious taboos in Iraq to involve women in fighting, but three recent suicide bombings carried out by women could indicate insurgents are growing increasingly desperate.

The female suicide attacks come as U.S.-led coalition forces are increasingly catching militants suspected of training women to become human bombs or finding evidence of efforts by al-Qaida in Iraq to recruit women, according to military records.

With coalition forces pushing extremists out of former strongholds and shrinking their pool of potential recruits, the militants are being forced to come up with other methods to penetrate stiffened security measures, said Diaa Rashwan, who follows Islamic militancy for Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

"There's a sense that this is an act of desperation," said Col. Donald Bacon, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

Female suicide bombers are a small part of the insurgents' battle to force U.S. troops from Iraq and rattle Shiites from newly acquired power. Women have been responsible for 14 of 667 suicide attacks since May 2005, or 2 percent. They have caused at least 107 deaths, or 5 percent of the 2,065 people killed during this time period, according to Associated Press statistics.

But those attacks appear to be increasing.

In November and December, women carried out three suicide bombings in Diyala province, one of Iraq's most violent areas, where al-Qaida in Iraq has a stronghold. The last female suicide bombing had been in July.

On Nov. 4, a woman detonated an explosives vest next to a U.S. patrol in Diyala's regional capital, Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, wounding seven U.S. troops and five Iraqis. On Dec. 7, a woman attacked the offices of a Diyala-based Sunni group fighting al-Qaida in Iraq, killing 15 people and wounding 35. Then, on Dec. 31, a bomber in Baqouba detonated her suicide vest close to a police patrol, wounding five policemen and four civilians.

Devastating attacks continue in Iraq even as Iraqi casualties are down by 55 percent nationwide since June 2007, according to an AP count. American and Iraqi forces, and thousands of Sunni tribal groups who turned against al-Qaida in Iraq, have pushed the extremist group from Baghdad and Anbar province west of the capital. The al-Qaida fighters have moved into Diyala northeast of Baghdad and farther north into Mosul, 225 miles northwest of the capital.

This image made from television shows Iraqi Sajida Mubarek Atrous al-Rishawi opening her jacket and showing an explosive belt as she confesses on Jordanian state-run television to her failed bid to set off an explosives belt inside one of the three Amman hotels targeted by al-Qaida in this Sunday Nov. 13, 2005 file photo.
AP

The tightening noose—at least for now—appears to be prompting the militants to turn to women attackers, Rashwan said, noting that extremist Muslim groups use women only when they see no alternative.

"Women should be in the last rows" of fighting, he said. "So to see women (suicide bombers) shows an abnormal situation—the absence of men."

Women have acted as suicide bombers for other causes. The first known female suicide bomber was Sana Mheidali, a Lebanese who killed two Israeli soldiers in 1985. Female Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka have carried out at least 60 suicide bombings in 24 years. Palestinian Muslim militants send out women suicide bombers, as does the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, which has waged a guerrilla war since 1984 for autonomy in Turkey's southeast.

Because of Muslim cultural sensitivities, women can be excellent candidates for suicide attacks when there are no female security guards. Most Iraqis are conservative Muslims who believe physical contact is forbidden between women and men not related by blood or marriage. As a result, women are often allowed to pass through male-guarded checkpoints without being searched. In October, the U.S. Army trained 20 women to work as security guards in a Baghdad suburb after a female suicide bomber entered a nearby building without being searched.

"We know it's a tactic that al-Qaida in Iraq is trying to use," Bacon said.

At least twice in December and once in August, al-Qaida members suspected of training women to use suicide belts were captured, the U.S. military has said. There are no military reports before August indicating suspicion of al-Qaida in Iraq training women attackers.

Some female bombers appear to be motivated by revenge, like the woman who killed 15 people in Diyala province on Dec. 7. She was a former member of Saddam Hussein's Baath party whose two sons joined al-Qaida in Iraq and were killed by Iraqi security forces.

But other women may be ideologues, just like their male counterparts, said Mohammad Hafiz, a University of Missouri professor who focuses on Muslim extremism.

Still others are influenced by relatives and spouses, "especially those dependent on them emotionally or materially," Hafiz said.

One of them, Sajida al-Rishawi, was married to a suicide bomber. The Iraqi woman tried unsuccessfully to detonate her explosives belt in an Amman, Jordan hotel on Nov. 9. 2005. Her husband and their other accomplices succeeded in blowing themselves up, however. Three hotels were bombed, and 60 people were killed.

Although use of women can be a sign of desperation, female suicide bombers also help extremist groups attract male recruits. Militants exploit the image of desperate women fighting because there aren't enough brave men, taunting would-be male suicide bombers into action, Hafiz said.

"Women," Hafiz said, "make great propaganda."

ATTACKS BY WOMEN SUICIDE BOMBERS

Attacks and attempted attacks by female suicide bombers in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion:

Dec. 31, 2007: A female suicide bomber detonates explosives near a police patrol, wounding five policemen and four civilians in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Dec. 7, 2007: A female suicide bomber attacks offices of a local Sunni group battling al-Qaida in Iraq, killing at least 15 people and wounding 35 in Muqdadiyah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. The woman was a former member of Saddam Hussein's Baath party whose two sons joined al-Qaida and were killed by Iraqi forces.

Nov. 4, 2007: A woman detonates explosives next to an American patrol near Baqouba, wounding seven U.S. troops and five Iraqis.

July 23, 2007: A female suicide bomber kills two policemen and wounds 10 at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. The belt was hidden underneath her conservative Muslim dress.

June 5, 2007: Guards foil a suicide attack in eastern Baghdad, gunning down a black-clad female bomber approaching a group of police recruits and causing her explosives to detonate.

April 11, 2007: A woman wearing an explosives vest strapped underneath her conservative black robe blows herself up in the midst of 200 Iraqi police recruits, killing 16 and wounding 33 in the town of Muqdadiyah.

Feb. 25, 2007: A female suicide bomber triggers a ball bearing-packed charge, killing at least 41 people and wounding at least 46 at a mostly Shiite college in Baghdad.

Dec. 6, 2005: Two women detonate strapped-on explosives in a classroom filled with students at Baghdad's police academy, killing 27 people.

Nov. 9, 2005: A 38-year-old Belgian convert to Islam, Muriel Degauque, detonates explosives near a U.S. patrol. She traveled with her husband to Iraq through Syria.

Oct. 11, 2005: A female suicide bomber detonates an explosives-packed vehicle near a U.S. military patrol in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. It was not known whether the blast caused any casualties.

Sept. 30, 2005: Iraqi troops intercept a woman strapped with explosives heading for a Baghdad market to carry out a suicide bombing.

Sept. 28, 2005: A female suicide bomber attacks an Iraqi army recruitment center in Tal Afar, about 90 miles east of the Syrian border, killing six people and wounding 30. Witnesses said the attacker wore men's clothing as a disguise and detonated her hidden explosives while standing in line with job applicants.

April 15, 2003: Two female suicide bombers carry out an attack that killed three coalition soldiers at a checkpoint northwest of Baghdad. Coalition forces said one women was pregnant.

March 2003: Four women are captured in a town south of Baghdad before they could detonate the explosives belts they were wearing.

AP

An Iraqi policeman stands by a man injured in a suicide attack that occurred in Tal Afar, Iraq in this Wednesday, Sept. 28 2005 file photo. A woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside an Iraqi army recruitment center in Tal Afar, killing at least six would-be recruits and wounding 30 in the first known attack by a female suicide bomber in the country's bloody insurgency.

Life & Style

The best and worst of trends in '07

By SUZANNE D'AMATO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Trend watching can be a strange business. How exactly does one explain the way a humble tulip skirt or pair of wide-leg jeans becomes a bona fide Look of the Moment? The trickle-down theory (from runway to reality) once had currency, but trends travel in all directions: from high to low, sure, but also from sidewalk to catwalk to red carpet to clearance rack. So how can you tell which of 2007's trends will still pack a punch this spring and beyond? Follow my highly unscientific guide to fashion's good, bad and unspeakably hideous.

Some designers consider their work closer to art than commerce, so it's no surprise that the style and art worlds are colliding. Expect a barrage of abstract prints swirled on such pieces as Marni's top-handle tote shown here.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Good design should be available at every price point. For example, Proenza Schouler's colorful tops and slim skirts for Target translated especially well on the cheap.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Trends I Liked

High-low collaborations. Because good design should be available at every price point. Doo-Ri Chang, Thakoon and Rodarte gussied up Gap's classic white shirts; Vera Wang sprinkled the racks at Kohl's with her special blend of fashion fairy dust. Proenza Schouler's colorful tops and slim skirts for Target translated especially well on the cheap. Sure, some of the pairings were lackluster (looking at you, Roberto Cavalli and H&M). But when they worked, they worked.

Power palettes. Last spring, neutrals got natty—who knew khaki could be so cool? For fall, jewel tones such as amethyst and ruby sparkled on shoes, bags and more.

Thom Browne's shrunken suits. Browne's signature Lilliputian-size suits—and the slightly less-exaggerated silhouettes he created for Brooks Brothers—are a smart antidote to the usual saggy-seated ensembles.

Trends I Didn't Like

Homely headgear. Far better to endure a bad hair day than to cover up with this year's ugliest item: the fashion world's take on the turban. It's almost impossible to wear well, even when fashioned out of buttercup satin by Miuccia Prada.

The incredible shrinking dress. Is it a too-short dress or a too-long shirt? Stores were packed with frock-tops in various hip-gripping lengths; most were frustratingly unwearable.

Celebrity designers. When Venus Williams makes headlines for being a celeb designer who actually attends design school, something is wrong with the world. If I never buy a top from Mandy Moore, Amanda Bynes or any of their Chiclet-teeth brethren, it will be too soon.

Monster trends. Sometimes a simple piece of clothing becomes larger than life, seizing storefronts and gobbling up all the ruched tanks and clutch bags in its path. For spring, yellow tops were everywhere (and it looks as if they will be again this year); for fall, sequined dresses seemed unavoidable. If you happen to own these items, stick them in the very back of your closet right now. Please?

A 2008 fashion preview: For women accustomed to bubble skirts and skinny minis, spring brings a new kind of full skirt. If you can't swing Derek Lam's luxe take shown here, this is an easy style to find for less.
THE WASHINGTON POST

What's Next

Full skirts. For women accustomed to bubble skirts and skinny minis, spring brings a new kind of volume. If you can't swing Derek Lam's luxe take, this is an easy style to find for less; try vintage shops.

Painterly prints. Some designers consider their work closer to art than commerce, so it's no surprise that the style and art worlds are colliding this season. Expect a barrage of abstract prints swirled on such pieces as Marni's top-handle tote. And on that note ...

Shoes that are works of art. One antidote to It Bag fatigue? Marc Jacobs' visually arresting, gravity-defying pump.

Watermelon. A cheery color that'll look great on a sub-zero day come February. Relegate the hue to your accessories rather than going head-to-toe, though.

Edgy florals. Because posy prints aren't just for grandmas. Classic florals get a new attitude in an acid-bright palette, topped by the kind of shoulders that would give Brian Urlacher pause.

Sheer equals Genius? Lingerie-inspired looks come out from under cover. The surprising thing? Compared with what passes for taste in Hollywood, these delicate tops and featherweight frocks almost manage to look conservative.

Peekaboo fashion statement for men

Unfold the square and pinch it at the center. Remember, silk pocket square with silk tie.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

By MONICA CORCORAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—When it comes to accessories for men, a pocket square is the sartorial exclamation point. Unlike ties and cuff links, it can never really be considered a necessity. Rather, that peek of fabric above the heart—both debonair and cocksure—can announce, "well-dressed man." Even better, folding a pocket square is easier than tying a bowline knot.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Hold up the fabric at the center and let it drape in soft, natural folds. I

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Still holding the center of the square, use the other hand to smooth the folds downward.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Loosely drape the fabric in half, between the index and third fingers.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Tuck the folded square inside the pocket, making sure it shows at the top.

Recently, Terrence Howard and Adrian Grenier took divergent paths to wearing a pocket square. Howard, at the announcement of the Screen Actors Guild nominations, paired a classic white linen one with his midnight-blue pinstripe suit. Grenier chose a more modern statement, with a splashy red kerchief that matched his tie and bloomed from the pocket like a prom-night boutonniere.

There are a few pocket square faux pas. To learn how to avoid them, we chatted with John Carroll of Beverly Hills menswear shop Carroll & Co. Back in the day, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and even Cary Grant popped in for their wardrobe staples—including pocket squares.

Question: Do men fear pocket squares?

Carroll: "They shouldn't. There is really no right or wrong way to wear one, and it's an added touch that sets you apart from everyone else."

Q: But there must be some rules. Do you match it to your tie or socks?

Carroll: "The pocket square should be the same color scheme as the tie. You should also match the fabric. You wear a silk pocket square with a silk tie."

Q: What about a linen handkerchief as pocket square?

Carroll: "A linen pocket square should be white, in my opinion. It's the easiest one to wear with a suit and doesn't need to match the fabric. But it's too dressy for just a sports jacket."

The modern-style square is often worn boldly, almost half out of the pocket. LOS ANGELES TIMES

Q: How about a pocket square for a tuxedo?

Carroll: "I like the white linen folded in triangle peaks because that looks the most elegant and polished."

Q: What is the most modern way to wear one?

Carroll: "Lately, I have seen men wearing them coming out of the pockets boldly. Almost half out. It's much more showy."

Q: Name the biggest mistake men make when wearing one.

Carroll: "If the square is too small, it falls down into the pocket and you can't see it. You just have a bulge."

Q: How about women who wear pocket squares, such as Hillary Clinton?

Carroll: "It's OK, as long as she doesn't overdo it. A scarf and a pocket square are too much. One or the other works best."

Q: When did you wear your first pocket square?

Carroll: "It was my junior prom in L.A. I wore a burgundy velvet jacket with a white shirt, bow tie and white pocket square. Keep in mind it was the late '70s."

Spears loses custody of kids to K-Fed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears was derailed yet again in her struggle to get her life back on track, losing custody of her two sons to ex-husband Kevin Federline. A court commissioner Friday gave sole physical and legal custody of the former couple's two little boys to Federline and suspended the troubled pop star's visitation rights.

Spears was hauled away from her home to a hospital by paramedics a day before, after police had to intervene when she refused to return the children to Federline after a court-monitored visit.

Commissioner Scott Gordon ordered another hearing to be held Jan. 14.

Federline had previously been awarded temporary custody of 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James because Spears has defied court orders, resulting in limitations on her visitation.

"I'm not happy about any of these events," Federline attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan said when he left a closed-door emergency hearing Friday afternoon. "There's no winners here."

Federline was not in court for the hearing, Kaplan said.

The attorney had said he did not expect the ruling to be released until Monday, but it was issued shortly after the hearing concluded.

Law professor Steve Cron, who is not involved in the Spears-Federline matter, predicted that Spears will face sanctions from the court for her behavior.

"My guess is that she won't be seeing her kids for a while," said Cron, who teaches at Pepperdine University in Malibu.

Gordon has little option other than to further reduce the time Spears can legally spend with her children, Cron said, "at least for the time being until she gets some help. She's obviously a very troubled person."

AP
A Los Angeles City Fire Department ambulance carrying entertainer Britney Spears leaves her residence, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, in Los Angeles.

The 26-year-old pop star remained hospitalized Friday.

Her latest troubles began around 8 p.m. Thursday when officers were called to her home to help resolve a dispute over her refusal to turn the children over to Federline, as dictated by their custody agreement.

It took two to three hours to resolve the conflict, said Los Angeles police Officer Ana Aguirre.

"There was a time where she was within the residence and wasn't available to be speaking to the officers, apparently," she said. "There was no threat to the children."

"Police resolved the conflict," Aguirre said. "Both children were turned over to her ex-husband Kevin Federline for custody, and she was in fact taken to a local hospital for medical treatment."

Early police reports said officers thought Spears might have been under the influence of some substance, but Aguirre said there was no evidence of that.

"Our understanding is that was not the case," she said.

Officers at the scene determined that paramedics "needed to be called" but it was unclear why, she said.

"We're not aware of any type of injuries that she sustained" and she was not combative with authorities, Aguirre said.

Spears wasn't arrested in connection with the custody dispute, Aguirre said.

"There was no actual crime that was involved," the police spokeswoman said.

Kaplan said he went to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after Spears was admitted there, but he declined to provide any details about the pop star, her ex-husband, or their two sons.

Spears' mother, Lynne Spears, also would not disclose any information about her daughter's condition. "Just say prayers," she told the celebrity news show "Access Hollywood" by phone Friday.

Hospital spokeswoman Simi Singer wouldn't confirm or deny reports in entertainment media that Spears would be held for 72 hours for psychological evaluation. The reports didn't identify their sources.

Spears "needs an enormous amount of help to find out why the erratic behavior," said Ruth Schreibman, a marriage and family therapist who does not treat the pop star.

"Is she bipolar? Is she depressed? Is it postpartum depression? Is it drugs and alcohol?" she said. "There's just so much attention and it's such an accelerated speed of life that how can there be any normalcy?"

Spears and Federline were married in October 2004. Her life has spiraled downward since their divorce in July. She has been photographed without underwear and appeared to be drunk and out of control in public. She shaved her head, beat a car with an umbrella and spent a month in rehab.

She had hoped to regain her pop crown with a much-hyped performance at MTV's Video Music Awards in September, but it was universally panned by fans and critics.

Still, Spears' latest album, "Blackout," earned positive reviews when it was released in October and brought Spears her first No. 1 hit in years, "Gimme More."

However, Spears remains a paparazzi target for her bizarre antics, which include frequent stops at gas-station bathrooms and holing up in a hotel room with a paparazzo.

Her 16-year-old sister, Jamie Lynn, made headlines last month when she announced that she is pregnant.

Hamill being treated for breast cancer

BALTIMORE (AP)—Olympic gold medalist Dorothy Hamill is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Hamill said in a statement Friday that she is being treated at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. The prognosis is favorable, but the 51-year-old Hamill said she will miss some of the "Broadway on Ice" tour while she is having treatment.

Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano, one of Hamill's good friends, will fill in for her, beginning Saturday night in Sarasota, Fla. Hamill said she hopes to rejoin the tour in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where it has shows Jan. 16-17.

Then 19, Hamill became America's sweetheart and a fashion icon when she won the gold medal at the 1976 Olympics. Her bright smile and bubbly personality made her a marketing dream—she was once listed as the "Most Trusted Sports Figure in America" by Ladies Home Journal—and her trademark wedge haircut sent girls across the country flocking to the hairdresser.

AP
Olympic figure skating gold medalist Dorothy Hamill arrives for Figure Skating In Harlem's annual gala "Skating with the Stars" at Central Park's Wollman Rink Monday, April 9, 2007, in this file photo from New York.

Hamill is one of seven U.S. women to win the Olympic gold medal. She also was a three-time U.S. champion and won the world title in 1976, and she has been inducted into both the U.S. and World Figure Skating halls of fame.

Hamill turned professional after winning the 1976 world championships. She joined the Ice Capades in 1977, and headlined that tour for eight years.

Hamill isn't the first Olympic champion to have cancer. Peggy Fleming, the 1968 Olympic gold medalist, also had breast cancer. She was diagnosed in 1998, but is now cancer free and is an advocate for research and awareness. Scott Hamilton, the 1984 men's champion, was treated for testicular cancer in 1997.

Mom apologizes for Hannah Montana essay

GARLAND, Texas (AP)—A woman apologized Friday for a "bad decision" in helping her 6-year-old daughter win tickets to a Hannah Montana concert with an essay that falsely claimed the girl's father died in Iraq.

Priscilla Ceballos said she hadn't intended to mislead the contest sponsor but got caught up in helping her daughter "realize her dream of seeing Hannah Montana."

"Instead I brought so much negative attention to my family," Ceballos said, reading a statement on NBC's "Today" show. "Please accept my heartfelt apology and please do not punish my child for my mistake."

Ceballos apologized specifically to the military and military families for falsely claiming the girl's father died in a roadside bombing in Iraq.

"I just wanted to help my daughter write a compelling story," she said. "There is no more compelling story than the struggle and sacrifices of our military and their families."

Officials with Chicago-based chain Club Libby Lu surprised the girl with the tickets and a makeover Dec. 28 at a store in a suburban Dallas mall. Club Libby Lu sells clothes, accessories and games for young girls.

The essay won her the grand prize: airfare for four to Albany, N.Y., and four tickets to the sold-out Hannah Montana concert Jan. 9. The opening line in the essay was: "My daddy died this year in Iraq."

Ceballos admitted later in the day to store officials that the essay and the military information she provided about her daughter's father were untrue.

SAG: Actors likely to snub Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Golden Globe-nominated actors are expected to snub the awards in support of striking Hollywood writers, the actors union said Friday, jeopardizing one of the entertainment industry's signature showcases.

NBC, however, said it was sticking by its plans to air the Jan. 13 ceremony, despite the uncertainty about how much—if any—star power the Globes could muster.

"The network plans to move forward with the broadcast at this point," NBC spokeswoman Rebecca Marks said, adding that it has yet to be determined which actors will participate.

Screen Actors Guild President Alan Rosenberg made the announcement after canvassing nominees during the past several weeks.

"There appears to be unanimous agreement that these actors will not cross" the picket lines to present or accept an award, he said in a prepared statement. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which organizes the awards, said it was wrestling with the "unfortunate predicament."

"We are making every effort to work out a solution that will permit the Golden Globes to take place with the creative community present to participate," Jorge Camara, the group's president, said in a statement.

The association hoped to announce a resolution Monday, Camara said.

The writers strike, which began Nov. 5, has broad implications for the way Hollywood does business. Whatever deal is struck by writers on payment for shows offered on the Internet could affect talks with actors and directors, whose contracts expire next June.

The Golden Globes show brings in a reported $5 million for the association and millions more in advertising revenue for NBC.

On Friday, a dozen publicity firms representing what they called a majority of Golden Globe-nominated actors, writers and directors, as well as many stars invited to appear as presenters, released a letter sent to NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker.

"After much discussion with our clients, we have concluded the vast majority of the talent we represent are not comfortable crossing a picket line," the letter said.

The stars would appear only if NBC and dick clark productions, which produces the show, reaches an interim agreement with the writers guild, the publicists told Zucker.

The Clark company lashed out at the guild in a statement Friday, citing repeated efforts to reach an interim agreement akin to the union deal with another independent company, Worldwide Pants, which produces David Letterman's show.

"We are disappointed that the WGA has refused to bargain with us in good faith. It is apparent that we are being treated differently from similarly situated production companies," the Clark company said.

Goldie Hawn says Aspen full of paparazzi

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Goldie Hawn says she can't go into Aspen from her nearby ranch because of aggressive paparazzi who pursue her car and stake out her home. "They've come into our little town and they really have done their job: They've shooed us out," the 62-year-old actress told The Aspen Times in Thursday's editions.

Hawn and longtime companion Kurt Russell have been part-time Aspen-area residents for 25 years. In the past, she said, she could wander Aspen freely because the town attracted few celebrity photographers, and they were discreet.

"But it ain't like the old days anymore," said Hawn, who won a supporting actress Oscar for the 1969 film "Cactus Flower."

"You find yourself running and dodging and jumping in your car," she said. "I can't go into my own town. I hurt for my children. It's not fair."

She said the paparazzi also stalk her 28-year-old daughter, Kate Hudson, who has starred in the films "Almost Famous" and "You, Me and Dupree."

Hawn said she spoke with Mayor Mick Ireland, who suggested she turn the tables and begin taking photos of the paparazzi.

Ireland told the Times the paparazzi pursuit was "abusive" and "inconsiderate" but said there is little the town can do.

"Anything we would do would just make it worse," he said. An ordinance limiting paparazzi would run up against defenders of the First Amendment, he said.

Aspen was once considered a refuge for celebrities, Ireland said, but no more.

"There's no safe haven," he said.

Judge in Brown case staying put

AIKEN, S.C. (AP)—A judge handling James Brown's contested fortune refused Friday to remove himself from the case despite an argument from the late soul singer's former trustees that he forced them to resign.

"I would never force anyone to do anything, that's not me," Circuit Judge Jack Early said.

Buddy Dallas and Alford Bradley, who both spent years handling Brown's financial affairs, resigned in November. A few weeks later, they claimed the judge had pressured them to resign. On Friday, an attorney for the trustees tried to retract the argument that the judge be removed, but Early wouldn't allow it and then ruled he wouldn't step aside.

Administrators looking into the handling of Brown's estate told the judge in September that another former trustee, David Cannon, may have misappropriated up to $7 million. And the singer's six adult children have been at odds with the trustees, claiming money has been mismanaged.

Dallas and Bradley have denied claims they violated Brown's trust.

Attorneys for Brown's adult children and a woman who claims to be his fourth wife argued the judge should stay.

Brown died in Atlanta on Christmas Day 2006, throwing into turmoil the future of his trust, which is said to contain most of his primary assets, including music rights and his 60-acre Beech Island home in South Carolina. The total value is still unclear.

Since he died, several people, including some claiming to be Brown's unacknowledged children, have come forward wanting a piece of his estate.

Tomi Rae Hynie, a former backup singer who claims to be Brown's fourth wife and the mother of his child, has said the singer wanted her to have his home in the western part of South Carolina, near the Georgia state line. She is vying for half of Brown's estate.

Amy Fisher poses for a photograph in New York, in this Oct. 1, 2004 file photo.

AP

Fisher, husband promote sex tape

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "Long Island Lolita" Amy Fisher is joining her husband in trying to market a sex tape, saying, "I always wanted to be No. 1 at something, but I didn't think it would be something like this."

Fisher said her husband, Louis Bellera, sold the sex tape to Red Light District video of Los Angeles in August when he and Fisher were divorcing. They have since reconciled, and Fisher said she took a six-figure payout rather than fight to have the video pulled from the Internet.

As a teenager, Fisher was sent to prison for seven years for shooting Mary Jo Buttafuoco, the wife of her former lover, Joey Buttafuoco. Buttafuoco, twice her age, served time for statutory rape for having sex with a 16-year-old.

Fisher, 33, has written two books and worked as a columnist for the Long Island Press. More recently, she has appeared as a celebrity guest at various clubs.

She admits explaining what she does and why she is famous will be hard to do when her 6-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter get older.

'Without a Trace' star welcomes baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—Poppy Montgomery and her boyfriend, Adam Kaufman, welcomed a son, Jackson Phillip Kaufman, on Dec. 23.

The baby was born in Los Angeles and weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces, Montgomery's publicist, Jennifer Shoucair, said Friday. He is the couple's first child.

Montgomery, 32, plays FBI agent Samantha Spade on "Without a Trace." Kaufman, 33, has appeared on several episodes of the CBS drama.

Stephen Stills recovering from surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stephen Stills, who had surgery for prostate cancer on his 63rd birthday, will remain hospitalized until Saturday, his publicist said Friday.

"Stephen is still in the hospital and will be released tomorrow. ... But, he is doing extremely well. Doctors wanted to keep him in for an extra night," publicist Michael Jensen said.

Stills had initially hoped to be released on Friday.

Stills, of Crosby, Stills & Nash (and sometimes with Neil Young), had the operation Thursday in Los Angeles, his wife Kristen said in a statement.

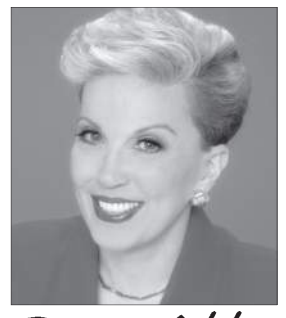
"Stephen's procedure went remarkably well and he couldn't be better," she said.

The two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame artist is scheduled to attend the Sundance Film Festival in Utah for the Jan. 25 world premiere of "CSNY/Deja vu," the statement said. The movie was shot during the 2006 Freedom of Speech tour by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

Stills is scheduled for a North American solo tour this spring in support of his recent "Just Roll Tape" album.

Friendly handshake can spread unfriendly germs

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The standard form of greeting in the West is a handshake. But this can lead to transmission of germs.

Being from India, I use the standard form of Indian greeting by holding my palms together, which is very hygienic. (By the way, many South Asian countries have the same custom of greeting.)

You might consider passing the word along because I'm sure your readers could understand the benefit of such a gesture—particularly during the cold and flu season.

SUNITHA IN KUWAIT

DEAR SUNITHA: I'm pleased to pass the word along. Your practical suggestion is a good one and something I have used myself. All you do is place your palms together, thumbs up at chest height. The friendly message it sends is clear when it's done with a smile.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently landed a dream job as a nanny for a wealthy family. When I say "wealthy," it's probably an understatement. These people have a big-screen theater in their home, a personal trainer over here four times a week, matching Lexus SUVs, gadgets galore and the biggest refrigerator I have ever seen -- not to mention the countless other real estate properties they have in California, Aspen and New York.

Coming from a more consumer-conscious background, I grew up recycling and shopping at thrift stores. I use alternate forms of transportation and refuse to "keep up with the Joneses."

How do I get this family, especially the children, to recycle, donate and think globally (i.e. sweatshops and child labor) without coming off as preachy? They are nice people, but these things have never been a part of their universe.

RECYCLIN' IN COLORADO

DEAR RECYCLIN': Your employers appear to be comfortably ensconced in their lifestyle bubble, which is an alternate reality from most of ours. However, you can positively influence the thinking of their children, and the most effective way to do it is to teach them by example.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I discovered a video camera recording me on the toilet in my brother-in-law's bathroom. When I confronted him, he said he was trying to photograph his wife and he had "forgotten" that my four children and I were coming over. Even though the tape had been recording for an hour before his wife was due home from work, I couldn't "prove" anything, so I let it go.

More recently I have learned he's been asking a close friend of ours some very personal questions, and asking for pictures of her various body parts.

My husband doesn't want to hurt his sister and has asked me not to say anything. So now I have to have the creep over at our house for family get-togethers and pretend I like him so she doesn't ask questions. Also, my children want to sleep over at their house, and I have to keep making up excuses. What do I do?

GOING CRAZY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GOING CRAZY: Your mistake—and your husband's—was in keeping this from your sister-in-law because it is not just her husband's problem; it is also hers. Your brother-in-law's fetish is creepy, possibly illegal and a huge invasion of privacy. Your children should not visit their home unless closely supervised by you or their father. Their safety is more important than your sister-in-law's "feelings." So speak up!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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• Succeeding positions	$1

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• 1st position	$13
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• Up to 6 positions	$5
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LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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2 br apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Rd., Chalan Laulau. Behind former Hakubotan bldg. Close to beach walking path. Call 483-1974.

Apartment for rent: 2br, 1bt, 24hrs water, Koblerville • $230/month-no deposit. Tel.: 288-0728 look for Edson

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 FARMER (SUN 1488)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arranged from & to the job site & workers compensation company provided. Contact: Manuel C. Villagomez @234-7632.

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1 INSURANCE UNDERWRITER (SUN 1489)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food & workmans compensation. Contact: Ma. Hellena Jebehn dba Saipan Sunrise @256-7746.

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1 DATA COMMUNICATION TECH. (SUN 1490)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Sams Son Inc. dba Pacific Tactical Supply @234-1425.

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1 COLLECTOR (SUN 1491)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation / Alien Physical. Contact: United Pacific Collection Agency @235-2000.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (SUN 1492)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductable; $100.00/food deductable; workers compensation provided & holidays off. Contact: Jocelyn Joyce D. Santos @235-5297.

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1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SUN 1493)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductable; $100.00/food deductable; workers compensation provided & holiday off. Contact: John J Santos @235-5297.

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1 MANAGER (SUN 1494)
Salary:$4.50-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; free food while on duty; medical coverage; workmen's compensation & annual vacation leave with pay. Contact: Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports & Production Co., @323-1154/285-3244.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SUN 1495)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; free food while on duty; medical coverage & workmen's compensation. Contact: Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports & Production Co., @323-1154/285-3244.

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1 FLORIST (SUN 1496)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; health & workmen's compensation. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1497)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

2 ACCOUNTANT (SUN 1498)
Salary:$4.25-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

1 GROUNDSKEEPER (SUN 1499)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

1 BAKER (SUN 1500)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workman compensation & medical provided. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

1 MAINTENANCE REPARIER (SUN 1501)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

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1 AUTOMOBILE BODY REPAIRER (SUN 1502)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Phillips Corporation Inc. dba Sky Tour, Young Tour, 4-Wheeler Safari @483-4806.

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2 AUTO MECHANIC (SUN 1503)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 CARPENTER (SUN 1504)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1505)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & worker compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SUN 1506)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & worker compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

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1 SALES PERSON (SUN 1507)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (SUN 1508)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

1 COOK (SUN 1509)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Ludivico A. Estrada Jr. dba JLE Catering @288-5646.

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1 CHEF (SUN 1510)
Salary:$700.00-$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 COOK (SUN 1511)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

5 WAITRESS/WAITER (SUN 1512)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1513)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (INSURANCE) (SUN 1514)
Salary:$600.00-$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Oceania Insurance Corporation @234-8320/8321.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SUN 1515)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Oceania Insurance Corporation @234-8320/8321.

1 CUSTOMER SERVICE REP. (SUN 1516)
Salary:$600.00-$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Oceania Insurance Corporation @234-8320/8321.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (SUN 1517)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: USA Corporation @323-1076.

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (SUN 1518)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: USA Corporation @323-1076.

1 GARBAGE COLLECTOR (SUN 1519)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: USA Corporation dba Speed Trash @323-1076.

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1 PRIVATE DUTY NURSE (SUN 1520)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Sook Lan Wong @234-1857.

1 HOUSEWORKER (SUN 1521)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provide housing; employer provide food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Sook Lan Wong @234-1857.

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1 CIVIL ENGINEER (SUN 1522)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan @235-5982.

1 CARPENTER (SUN 1523)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 MASON (SUN 1524)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

2 ARCHITECT (SUN 1525)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 CARPENTER (SUN 1526)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 ELECTRICIAN (SUN 1527)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

5 PLUMBER (SUN 1528)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free transportation to & from the jobsite; free medical; workmen's compensation; self provided housing; & self provided food. Contact: Juan A Gacayan dba JAG Construction. @235-5982.

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4 COOK (SUN 1529)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Julian Salalila dba Julian's Fastfood and Grill @287-0853.

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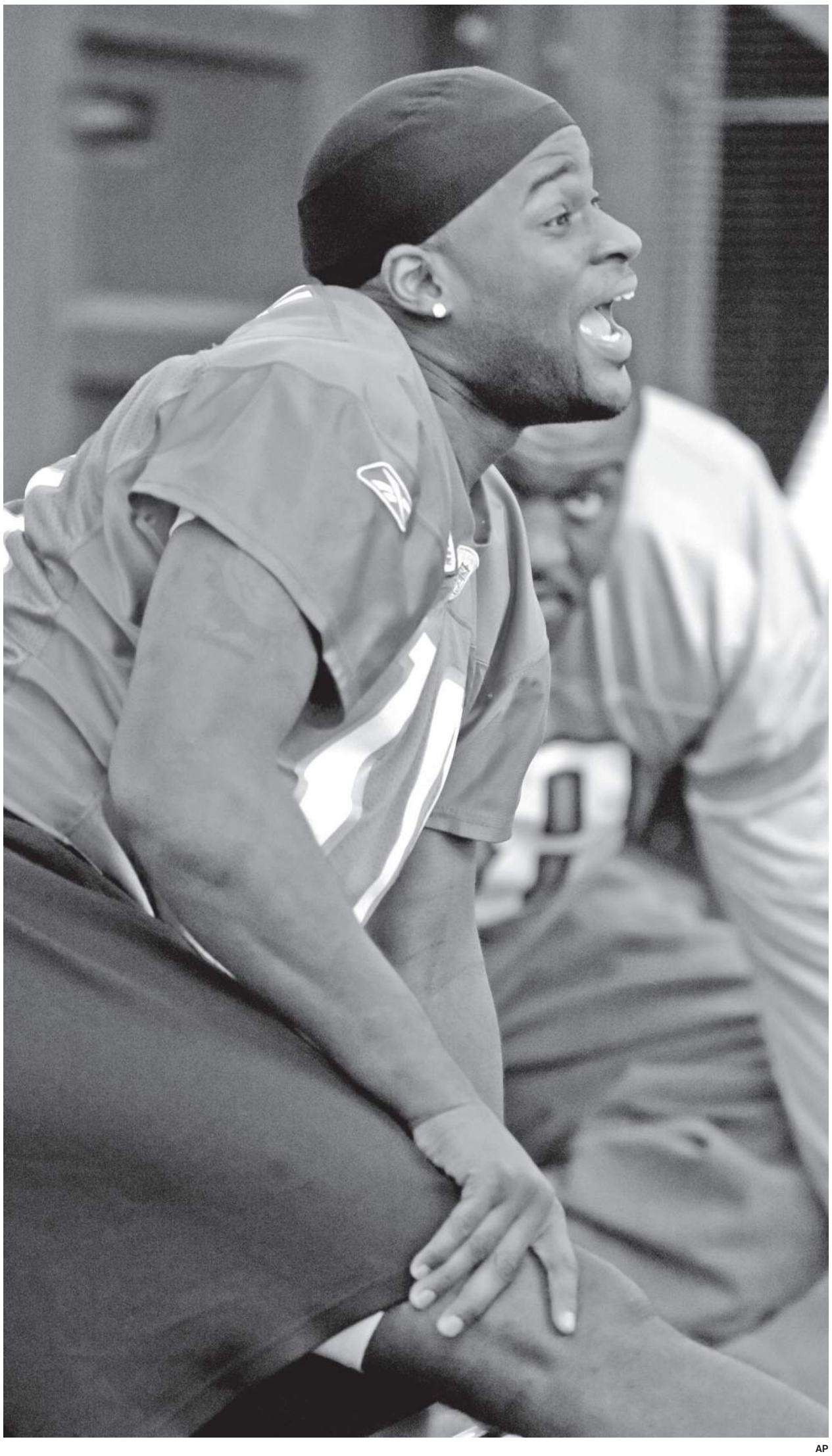
1 CAREGIVER (SUN 1530)
Salary:$300.00/monthly. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Luisa K. Angey @288-2681.



AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young jokes with teammates as they stretch during practice in the team's indoor facility Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008 in Nashville, Tenn. The Titans face the San Diego Chargers Sunday in an AFC wild-card game.

Vince Young will be game-time decision

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee quarterback Vince Young took part in most of practice Friday, but will be a game-time decision for the Titans' playoff game Sunday against the San Diego Chargers. Coach Jeff Fisher said Young was better but did not go full speed with his sore right quadriceps.

"I did say early he's a quick healer," Fisher said of his quarterback. "He's been that way. He can overcome some difficult things rather quickly, so we're very optimistic at this point."

But the Titans still will test Young on Sunday to make sure he can run around and be close to full speed.

"Then we'll make the decision," Fisher said.

Young is 17-11 as the Titans' starter since being drafted with the third pick overall in 2006. He originally hurt his quadriceps muscle in October and missed a game the next week, but has said this injury isn't as severe.

This would be his second game against the Chargers in a month. Young was intercepted twice and limited to 2 yards on two carries. Fisher said Young has studied the tape of that game.

"Hopefully with some anticipation, he'll be able to take advantage of some things," Fisher said.

Running back LenDale White was back with the team after being excused the past two days of practice because of the death of his grandmother. He didn't practice Friday because of a sore knee, but is expected to start after running for 1,110 yards.

Fisher said he visited with White on Thursday and again Friday.

"He's coming around," Fisher said. "He'll get some exercise. His knee is sore. He'll get some exercise, we'll get him stretched out, and we'll have him mentally ready to play."

Center Kevin Mawae missed practice again with his sore left calf, and right guard Benji Olson (back) also sat out. Eugene Amano has started for Mawae the past two games, while Daniel Loper replaced Olson late in last week's win at Indianapolis.

The Titans have a roster spot with receiver Roydell Williams breaking his right ankle, and team officials planned to discuss making a move later Friday. With Mawae and Olson expected to be game-time decisions as well, an offensive lineman was expected to be promoted from the practice squad.

"It's no different than any other position," Fisher said of the injuries in the middle of his offensive line. "We have injuries, younger guys are stepping up. That's what we're dealing with, and so far this year when Danny's gone in to play, he's played well. Same thing with Eugene."

Jones going to Texas to discuss SMU post

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii football coach June Jones said he would travel to Dallas on Saturday to discuss the opening at Southern Methodist University.

Jones told The Honolulu Advertiser an official offer was expected to be made during a meeting with SMU officials.

Jones' agent, Leigh Steinberg, said SMU had made an offer and the coach has received a counteroffer from Hawaii. Steinberg did not discuss specifics, but said Jones also is considering an NFL job.

National reports have said SMU has offered Jones up to $2 million a year. He currently receives $800,000 a year from Hawaii under a five-year contract that expires June 30.

Jones, the winningest coach in Hawaii history over his nine seasons, said he met with University of Hawaii president David McClain on Thursday and with athletic director Herman Frazier on Friday.

Jones' Warriors were the nation's only undefeated college team this season before they lost to Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. Before the loss, Hawaii had won 22 of its previous 23 games and 13 straight, the longest streak in major college football.

In his first season at Hawaii, Jones took over an 0-12 team and directed the biggest turnaround in college football history, going 9-4 in 1999 and taking Hawaii to its first bowl game since 1992.

SMU announced Oct. 28 that head coach Phil Bennett would step down when the season ended.

Falcons' Rich McKay relinquishes GM duties

ATLANTA (AP)—Rich McKay signed a two-year contract extension Friday to remain the Atlanta Falcons' president, but will relinquish the general manager's duties.

Team spokesman Reggie Roberts confirmed that McKay and owner Arthur Blank agreed to terms earlier in the day.

Since he left Tampa Bay and joined Blank in December 2003, McKay has held dual titles as president-GM. Atlanta had a productive offseason in 2004, but the team has made several poor personnel decisions during the last three years.

McKay also recommended coach Bobby Petrino as a replacement for Jim Mora last January. Petrino stayed just 13 games before suddenly resigning and leaving for Arkansas. The Falcons went 4-12 this season, which was dominated by Michael Vick's federal dogfighting crimes and Petrino's departure.

Blank has enlisted McKay to help interview candidates for the vacant head coach and general manager jobs.

Two GM candidates, Packers personnel chiefs Reggie McKenzie and John Schneider, met with Blank and McKay earlier this week. Eagles GM Tom Heckert is supposed to interview this weekend. Two coaching candidates, Cowboys assistants Jason Garrett and Tony Sparano, met with Blank and McKay on Friday in Dallas. The Falcons also have interviewed San Francisco assistant Mike Singletary and Indianapolis assistant Jim Caldwell.

Atlanta has missed the playoffs in each of the last three seasons, going a combined 19-29 since advancing to the NFC title game three years ago.

Before entering his final full season with Tampa Bay in 2002, McKay signed a six-year contract extension worth $2.4 million per season. The Buccaneers went on to win the Super Bowl, but McKay's testy relationship with coach Jon Gruden led to his departure in Week 14 of 2003.

McKay's original deal with Atlanta covered six years and was worth as much as $17 million.

Pistons extend win streak to 11

TORONTO (AP)—Richard Hamilton scored 22 points, Rasheed Wallace added 20 and the Detroit Pistons extended their NBA winning streak to 11 games with a 101-85 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Friday.

Chauncey Billups had 18 points for Detroit, which has not lost since Dec. 12 and owns the longest current run in the league.

The Pistons' streak is their longest since winning 11 straight in January 2006. Detroit hosts Eastern Conference-leading Boston on Saturday.

Chris Bosh had 23 points and 16 rebounds for Toronto, which has lost five of seven.

Rockets 96, Magic 94

At Orlando, Florida, Rafer Alston scored 20 points, including the game-winning layup with 4 seconds left, and Houston narrowly escaped Orlando with a victory.

Orlando appeared to tie the game at 96 with Adonal Foyle's tip-in at the buzzer, but officials said he didn't get the shot off in time. The replay seemed to show he did, and the Rockets literally ran off the floor when the call came down.

Celtics 100, Grizzlies 96

At Boston, reserve Tony Allen filled in when Ray Allen struggled, scoring a season-high 20 points to help Boston beat Memphis.

Tony Allen scored 15 in the second quarter to help Boston take the lead for good, Paul Pierce scored 23 with 10 rebounds and Kevin Garnett also had 23 to give the Celtics their eighth straight win. James Posey had nine points and 10 rebounds while also busting open the lip of Memphis' Rudy Gay, who made just one of his first eight shots but finished with 21 points.

Nets 102, Bobcats 96

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 30 points and New Jersey won a season-high fourth straight game and handed Charlotte its 11th consecutive road loss.

An under-the-weather Richard Jefferson added 28 points and Jason Kidd had 11 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his eighth triple-double of the season.

Cavaliers 97, Kings 93

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 24 points and Daniel Gibson hit a dagger-like 3-pointer with 12 seconds left as Cleveland avoided embarrassment by beating short-handed Sacramento.

Gibson had 13 points, 10 in the fourth, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 15 rebounds for Cleveland.

Pacers 113, Hawks 91

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger tied a career high with 32 points, and Indiana beat Atlanta to snap a five-game losing streak.

Granger shot 10-for-15 from the field and had nine rebounds. He tied his career best point total on a dunk late in the fourth quarter.

Wizards 101, Bucks 77

At Milwaukee, Antawn Jamison scored 24 points and Washington shot 55 percent from the field to beat listless Milwaukee.

The game wasn't competitive from the start with the Bucks missing leading scorer Michael Redd, who was kneed in the left thigh against Miami on Wednesday.

Spurs 97, Knicks 93

At San Antonio, defensive specialist Bruce Bowen showed off his offense, scoring 15 points to help San Antonio beat New York.

Nuggets 118, Timberwolves 107

At Minneapolis, Allen Iverson scored 33 points, Carmelo Anthony added 26 and Denver beat Minnesota.

Hornets 116, Warriors 104

At Oakland, Calif., Tyson Chandler had a season-high 22 points and matched a season best 22 rebounds to lead the New Orleans Hornets to their fifth straight road win, 116-104 over the Golden State Warriors.

Mavericks 94, Heat 89

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks needed a defensive stand in the final seconds to pull out a 94-89 victory against the reeling Miami Heat.

Lakers 124, Sixers 93

At Los Angeles, Andrew Bynum had 17 points and a career-high 16 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers rolled to a 124-93 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

AP

Toronto Raptors' Kris Humphries, right, fouls Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups during NBA basketball action in Toronto, Friday, Jan. 4, 2008.

Canadians in charge in Hawaii

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Mike Weir holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 6-under 67 and a one-shot lead over fellow Canadian Stephen Ames and Jonathan Byrd at the Mercedes-Benz Championship on Friday.

Ames, the only player in the field who actually lives in Canada, fixed a flaw in his putting stroke and also shot 67, making birdie on three of his last five holes despite missing a 6-footer along the way.

Weir, raised in Bright's Grove, Ontario, now lives in the U.S. and played only one full round of golf last month when he went to San Diego to check on equipment. Ames was born in Trinidad and Tobago and moved to Calgary in 1991, becoming a naturalized citizen in 2003. He hasn't played since winning the Skins Game a month ago, and during his 10-day vacation on Maui, played only 18 holes over two days with his sons.

And here they are on an island in the Pacific, their names atop the leaderboard in the first tournament of the year.

"That's odd," Weir said. "We're probably the least ready for it. There might be something to that."

Canadian tourists on the west coast of Maui won't be hard to find on Saturday.

About 100 of them were standing above the first fairway in the opening round when Ames and Weir played in consecutive groups, and they seemed to split up. They can stay in one place for the third round. Weir, at 8-under 138, and Ames will be in the final group.

Byrd made birdie on his last two holes for a 69.

Brandt Snedeker was atop the leaderboard for most of the round for the second straight day until faltering late. This time it wasn't a broken driver but a faulty putter. He had a 15-foot birdie for a share of the lead, but three-putted for a 69 that left him two shots back.

Nick Watney, who led the first round after a 68, made two late birdies for a 72 and was at 6-under 140 with Snedeker.

The best round belonged to Mark Calcavecchia, certainly no flat-belly but in much better shape for the Plantation Course at Kapalua after hiking up South Mountain outside Phoenix to get his legs in shape. He hit every green in regulation, three-putted twice, but still made nine birdies in his round of 66 and was at 5-under 141.

What helped more than a steady heartbeat was the weather.

Clouds drifted across the Kapalua for most of the day, but there were no steady blasts of showers until the end of the round. The wind wasn't nearly as severe, either, and it reflected in the scoring.

The course played more than three shots easier. Ten players broke 70, compared with only two in the first round.

Perhaps the best example was the 503-yard ninth hole, which plays into the trade wind and was so tough earlier in the week that most players had to blast a fairway metal just to reach the second portion of the fairway. Weir isn't the biggest hitter on tour, but he managed to reach the green in two on Friday, then made a 15-foot eagle putt that sent him on his way.

He played the par 5s in 5 under.

Ames found the answer late Thursday on the putting green, when he noticed his head too far behind the ball that caused his putter to swing upward too quickly through the ball. He showed up about 10 minutes earlier than usual—this is a working vacation—to correct the problem, and took only 26 putts on the tough greens of Kapalua.

Most of his birdies came inside 10 feet, but he got his round going with a pair of 15-footers, and the 20-foot birdie at the end.

"This is a family vacation," he said. "Golf keeps getting in the way."

Weir and Ames are thrilled to be at Kapalua, perhaps because it took so long for them to qualify for the winners-only event. Weir's previous victory was the Nissan Open in 2004 as he retooled his swing under Andy Bennett and Mike Plummer. He saw progress, but didn't get any measurable results until last September at Royal Montreal, where he beat Tiger Woods in a singles match before a delirious home crowd at the Presidents Cup.

It was no coincidence that he won three weeks later in Arizona as part of the U.S. PGA Tour's Fall Series, the third-to-last event of the season.

"I think there was a correlation there," Weir said. "It was a tough few years. I felt like I was on my way there. To win after 3½ years is almost harder than the first one."

Ames won the final event of 2007 at Disney, winning by one shot with a bunker save from 65 feet.

Twenty players were under par, and the first tournament of the year is still wide open. Ten shots separate Weir from Joe Ogilvie in 27th place among the 31-man field.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	3	.903	
Toronto	17	16	.515	12
New Jersey	16	16	.500	12 1/2
Philadelphia	14	19	.424	15
New York	8	23	.258	20

Southeast Division

Orlando	22	13	.629	
Washington	16	15	.516	4
Atlanta	15	15	.500	4 1/2
Charlotte	11	20	.355	9
Miami	8	25	.242	13

Central Division

Detroit	26	7	.788	
Cleveland	16	17	.485	10
Indiana	16	18	.471	10 1/2
Chicago	12	19	.387	13
Milwaukee	12	20	.375	13 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	9	.710	
Dallas	22	11	.667	1
New Orleans	22	11	.667	1
Houston	16	17	.485	7
Memphis	9	23	.281	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	20	12	.625	
Portland	20	13	.606	1/2
Utah	18	16	.529	3
Seattle	9	23	.281	11
Minnesota	4	28	.125	16

Pacific Division

Phoenix	23	9	.719	
L.A. Lakers	20	11	.645	2 1/2
Golden State	19	15	.559	5
Sacramento	12	19	.387	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	20	.333	12

Friday's Games

Houston 96, Orlando 94
Indiana 113, Atlanta 91
Detroit 101, Toronto 85
Boston 100, Memphis 96
Cleveland 97, Sacramento 93
New Jersey 102, Charlotte 96
Denver 118, Minnesota 107
San Antonio 97, New York 93
Washington 101, Milwaukee 77
Dallas 94, Miami 89
L.A. Lakers 124, Philadelphia 93
New Orleans 116, Golden State 104

MERCEDES BENZ CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

SECOND ROUND

Mike Weir	71	67	138
Stephen Ames	72	67	139
Jonathan Byrd	70	69	139
Brandt Snedeker	71	69	140
Nick Watney	68	72	140
Mark Calcavecchia	75	66	141
Justin Leonard	73	68	141
Aaron Baddeley	70	71	141
Angel Cabrera	70	71	141
Daniel Chopra	69	72	141
Steve Stricker	73	69	142
Steve Flesch	72	70	142
Zach Johnson	76	67	143
Chad Campbell	75	68	143
Scott Verplank	73	70	143
George McNeill	74	69	143
Charles Howell III	74	70	144
Vijay Singh	74	70	144
Jim Furyk	74	70	144
Hunter Mahan	73	72	145
Brian Bateman	76	70	146
Fred Funk	75	71	146
Mark Wilson	74	72	146
Rory Sabbatini	72	74	146
Charley Hoffman	75	72	147
Woody Austin	73	74	147
Joe Ogilvie	75	73	148
Henrik Stenson	76	75	151
Paul Goydos	81	73	154
K.J. Choi	79	75	154
Boo Weekley	80	74	154

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

JON PEREZ

Dennis Borja of Team Tinian tries to get past the defense of a San Antonio Sixers player in their game in the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

Ji Hoon Heo enters the Round of 32 of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia.

JON PEREZ

Emily Jones displays her trophy that she won in the 2007 Fall Classic Junior Tennis tournament on Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Christian Miller prepares to serve in this file photo taken during a tournament on Saipan.

CNMI netters making waves

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER

It was an eventful week for the CNMI Junior netters with two of its players reaping individual honors while another one is making his mark in an Australian tournament.

The 12-player CNMI junior tennis team went home victorious in the year-ending 2007 Guam Junior Tennis Open Championship on Dec. 29 and 30 at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagåtña.

Christian Miller won the boys' 13-and-under singles title while Emily Jones pocketed the girls' 10-and-under singles crown in the weekend tournament.

Miller defeated teammate and friend Jake Lee, 8-4, in the finals while Jones scored an 8-6 win over Camdyn Nadler in the girls' division.

Miller also captured the boys' 13-and-under doubles crown teaming up with Raphael Jones to beat teammates Daniel Camacho and Nathan Nutting in the finals.

Emily Jones also gave Team CNMI another doubles title when she joined Guam's Celia Anderson beating the duo of Nadler and Allyssa Bristol, 8-3, in the finals of the girls' 10-and-under division.

Marianas High School student Ji Hoon Heo, meanwhile, reached the Round of 32 of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia.

Heo is competing in his first Australian junior championship tournament after being invited to become a member of the International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team late last year.

Heo's case marks the first time ITF has granted an exception to a player from the Pacific Oceania region.

The Northern Marianas Athletics also held the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay on Dec. 29 where the Jacque Wonenberg-led We Are Legend team bested six other squads in the 13.7-mile racing event from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Aside from Wonenberg, We Are Legend was composed mostly of CNMI national athletics team members—Nate Mateo, Matthew Mancao, Reylynn Sapong, and Ken Yoshimoto. The five took turns in completing the relay challenge and was the first team to cross the finish line in one hour, 33 minutes, and four seconds.

SaipanCell of James Lee, Yvette Bennett, Keone Chariton, and cousins James and Joe Villacrusis. SaipanCell clocked in at 1:43.16 to finish third while a team composed of Nora Ada, Lynn Tenorio, Robert Torres, Michael Villagomez, and Tom finished third with a time of 1:50.14.

A number of individuals also used the island relay as a training event for next month's Saipan full and half marathon with Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria emerging as the fastest runner when he completed the solo run in 1:48.50.

Jon Eparwa and Emi Williams ended 2007 by plucking the December King and Queen of the Lanes titles after topping the final monthly roll-off held Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Capital Bowling Center.

Eparwa beat the 814 scored by Simon Manacop last Dec. 23 to claim the December King title after bowling a four-game series total of 821 pinfalls while Williams' Dec. 23 score of 781 survived against the other female bowlers.

The Masters Baseball League enters its playoffs round next week with the Saipan Stevedore D9ers and Team Rubak seemed headed for a title showdown.

JON PEREZ

The top three winners of the December Queen of the Lanes, from left, Ron Cal, Emi Williams, and Gigi Zapanta.

JON PEREZ

December King of the Lanes winner Jon Eparwa, right, enjoys a light moment with runner up Kitz Barja.

JON PEREZ

Ronald Villafria poses with the gift items he won during the Christmas Island Relay.

JON PEREZ

Team We Are Legend, from left, Nate Mateo, Reylynn Sapong, Matt Mancao, Ken Yoshimoto, and Jacque Wonenberg.

Vince Young will be game-time decision

Tennessee quarterback Vince Young took part in most of practice Friday, but will be a game-time decision for the Titans' playoff game Sunday against the San Diego Chargers. 25

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CNMI netters making waves

It was an eventful week for the CNMI Junior netters with two of its players reaping individual honors while another one is making his mark in an Australian tournament. 27

Jung lifts G-Stars in Holiday Hoops

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Players and supporters of the G-Stars celebrate their championship victory in yesterday's finals of the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Coach Jose Tumaquip doesn't mind if Joseph Jung missed two-pressure packed free throws and just made two points in the entire game as long as it won for them the championship.

Thanks to Jung's last-second shot, and a hurried 3-point attempt by the Junior Sonics at the other end, the G-Stars squeezed out a 62-60 win in yesterday's finals of the 4th Annual 14-and-under Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a fitting revenge for the G-Stars after the Sonics dealt them their lone loss in the elimination round, a 73-51 thrashing on Friday.

For the Sonics, it was another sorry loss after going undefeated in the elimination round.

It was also coach Jesse Tudela's third-straight finals loss. He lost the titles in the 25-and-under and the 17th Saipan Rotary Club 18-and-under youth basketball leagues.

A jubilant and still soaking wet coach Tumaquip said after the game that they would take any win in whichever way they can.

With the score tied at 60-all, Jung received a pass from Jason Palacios, dribbled past his defenders and went straight to the hoop to break the deadlock with 4.6 seconds left.

The Sonics then hurried to score at the other end, a two would send the game into overtime and a 3-pointer would win for them the game. Nicko Salem's attempt, however, was partially blocked by Dino Palacios as time expired.

Earlier, with 10 seconds left, Jung missed two free throws that could have won for them the game. Salem tied the count for the last time at 60-all.

Jake Deleon Guerrero scored 21 points to pace the G-Stars, which led from the start and enjoyed leads as much as 10 points.

Dino Palacios supported him with 14 points while Jason Palacios added 10 markers as well as setting up the G-Stars' offense.

Salem and Tristan Ecalnea, who teamed up in the second half to rally the Sonics back into the game, finished with 21 points each.

In the battle for third place, the San Antonio Sixers escaped with a 92-85 decision over the visiting Team Tinian.

Roxanne Duenas had a field day scoring a team-high 39 points to lead the Sixers in the consolation match. Joshua Duenas added 24 points while Nevin Salem ended up with 12 markers.

Dennis Borja had a monster game with a season-high 44 points while Demetrius Pettis chipped in 21 for the Keith Nabors-coached Tinian squad.

Consolation game

San Antonio Sixers 92—R. Duenas 39, J. Duenas 24, Salem 12, Scott 7, Camacho 6, Westley 4.

Tinian 85—D. Borja 44, De. Pettis 21, Da. Pettis 8, Pascua 6, D. Hofschneider 4, C. Palacios 2.

Scoring by halves: 47-41, 92-85.

Championship game

G-Stars 62—J. Deleon Guerrero 21, D. Palacios 14, Jas. Palacios 10, E. Manalili 7, L. Deleon Guerrero 4, Hofschneider 2, Jung 2, Rangamar 2.

Junior Sonics 60—Ecalnea 21, Salem 21, Cadiang 7, Sarmiento 6, Feria 5.

Scoring by halves: 28-25, 62-60.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety personnel from the Commissioner's Office, Criminal Investigation Bureau, Internal Affairs, Armory Unit, and the Attorney General's Office took part in last Dec. 29's 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay.

One department, one force, one very long run

By MARK RABAGO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Department of Public Safety joined the community in the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay held last Dec. 29 from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

To support of the event and encourage physical fitness within the force, DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield formed DPS Team Rule 5 and enlisted three five-person teams as well as eight volunteers.

Representing DPS were personnel from the Commissioner's Office, Criminal Investigation Bureau, Internal Affairs, Armory Unit, and the Attorney General's Office.

To add to the fun, DPS employees brought along their children and spouses to take part in the relay.

Warfield said DPS is very proud to have taken part in the worthwhile event that show-cased teamwork and promoted physical fitness.

"As a testament to dedication and team spirit, participants practiced for two months prior to the event. Following the completion of the relay, first-time participants have already expressed interest in setting new goals to keep them healthy and fit, an accomplishment in and of itself," she said.

She added that although the event was a competitive relay, the event was a fun activity for all of those who participated. She added that DPS is already looking forward to participating in future relays.

"I would like to congratulate the participants, especially the first-timers for braving the heat and rain and enduring until a successful finish," said Warfield. "First responders are the cornerstones of safety, and healthier police officers and firefighters make a healthier community."

Northern Marianas Athletics

DPS is inviting the public to support the upcoming 'DPS Health Challenge' were participants, firefighters, and police alike will race for prizes in the pursuit of better health.

More than 70 running enthusiasts took part in the 13.7-mile Christmas Island Relay that was topped by We Are Legend, which finished the course 1:33.04. The team was made up of Jacque Wonenberg, Nate Mateo, Matthew Mancao, Reylynn Sapong, and Ken Yoshimoto.

Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria, meanwhile, was the fastest solo runner when he completed the course in 1:48.50.